THE
Fisherman
—THE LONG ISLAND, METROPOLITAN NEW YORK EDITION—

May 26th—June 1st, 1983
Volume 18, Number 21

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THE Fisherman

—THE LONG ISLAND, METROPOLITAN NEW YORK EDITION—

Volume 18, Number 21 May 26th, 1983

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Combination baits such as this bucktail/jelly worm and squid combo have been especially effective on big tiderunners in recent years. For more on tempting weaks, see the article on page 14.

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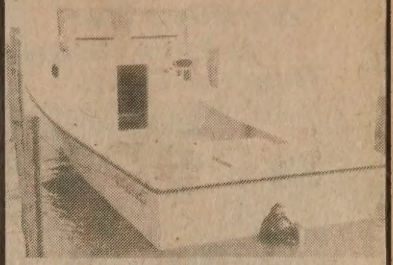

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GREAT SOUTH BAY SEMINAR AT HOLIDAY INN, HAUPPAUGE

Another in The Fisherman Seminar Series, this one covering fishing for weaks, blues, fluke and stripers in Great South Bay, will be held on Thursday, May 26, between 8PM and 11PM at the Holiday Inn (Exit 55 L.I.E.), Hauppauge. It will be hosted by Fisherman Editor and South Shore columnist Fred Golofaro. All those attending will receive free gifts and a chance in the door prize raffle. Seating is limited, so phone reservations are suggested (516-725-4200). Admission is $10 for adults and $5 for senior citizen card holders and children under 16.

BACKING BY STATE D.E.C. ASSURES PASSAGE OF STRIPED BASS BILL

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation is backing the Striped Bass Management Bill sponsored by Assemblyman Patrick Halpin of Lindenhurst. The bill, No. A6469, has now cleared the Assembly Committee on Environmental Conservation with a favorable 16 to 5 vote. Following approval by the Assembly codes and the Ways and Means Committees, the measure will be sent to the full Assembly, where it is expected to pass.

"Never before," reports Bob Buss, president of Save Our Stripers, a conservation organization, "has a striped bass bill generated so much backing. In addition to first-time support by the DEC, the legislation is also backed by the U.S. National Marine Fisheries Service and the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission."

Non-governmental organizations seeking passage of Bill No. A6469 are: Save Our Stripers, New York Sport Fishing Federation, Stripers Unlimited, New York Conservation Council, Montauk Captains (charter boat) Association, Nassau County Fish and Game Association, Suffolk Alliance of Sportsmen, United Mobile Sportsmen, Natural Resources Protective Association of Staten Island, Hudson River Fisherman's Association, National Coalition for Marine Conservation, and the publications Salt Water Sportsman and The Long Island Fisherman.

Following passage by the Assembly, the bill will go to the Senate, where it is not expected to encounter any problems. In past years, the Senate has always approved meaningful bass bills.

While the legislation has the support of many large organizations, letters to the state capitol from individual sportsmen and conservationists, as well as from organizations, are still extremely important to assure final approval by the Assembly and Senate. Letters urging passage of Striped Bass Management Bill A6469 should be mailed to the writer's own local Assembly representative and State Senator. The address for the Assembly is: Legislative Office Building, Albany, N.Y. 12248. For the Senate, the address is the same except that the zip code is 12247. There is no time to waste, as voting on the bill will be taking place during the next few weeks.

MEMBERSHIP DRIVE UNDER WAY BY LONG ISLAND BEACH BUGGY ASSOCIATION

Long Island Beach Buggy Assn. would like to encourage all beach users to join. We are a voluntary group of people, interested in the natural beach resources of Long Island. We work to secure voluntary acceptance of certain rules which will aid in the safety of beach users. We work for the proper conservation and ecology of water, beach and marine sport fisheries. We try to educate the misinformed, and teach those who now abuse our beaches. We provide assistance to our members, and the public, wherever and whenever we can. The bigger our membership is, the more influence we can have on local beach policy decisions in government. Our next open meeting will be Thursday, June 9th, at Christophers Tavern, Montauk Highway, Patchogue. Annual dues for adults is $13.50, while juniors between the ages of 16 and 18 pay $7. For more information on becoming a LIBBA member, phone (516) 878-1198 or (516) 472-1676.

FREE COURTESY MOTORBOAT EXAMS AT EAST ISLIP MARINA AND HECKSCHER STATE PARK

The start of the boating season is without doubt one of the most important times. It is now that all federal and state safety equipment should be checked as to the condition and usefulness for the coming season. With this point in mind, the Coast Guard Auxiliary would like to recommend that all boat owners have a courtesy motorboat examination performed as early in the season as possible. The Auxiliary will, at your request, examine all federal and state required equipment on your boat and inform you as to the serviceable condition of that equipment. If the equipment is found to be in a satisfactory condition, a C.M.E. decal is affixed to the boat. This is a visible and outward sign to your boating friends and law enforcement agencies that you have taken the time to assure yourself that your equipment is good. If anything is found wrong or not up to par, the only report is made to you, the boat owner. Upon a re-examination of the defect or fault, if all is in order, a C.M.E. decal is then awarded. The courtesy examination is offered free, and Auxiliary Flotilla 1-3 of Islip has scheduled C.M.E. stations

during the upcoming weekends. It takes about 20 minutes of your time, and for the price, it is the best bargan in town.

The times and locations for the C.M.E. stations are as follows: Saturday and Sunday, June 4 and 5 at the East Islip Marina and at the Heckscher State Park boat ramp from 7AM until 11AM and then again on Saturday and Sunday, June 11 and 12 at the East Islip Marina from 7AM until 11AM. The first week of June is National Safe Boating Week and the theme this year is "Your Friend for Life—Your P.F.D." So start the summer and celebrate Safe Boating Week with a C.M.E.

CAPTS. FRANK & SIG SIGNORELLI AT CUSTOM TACKLE

Well known charter boat captains and Daiwa field testers Sig and Frank Signorelli, will be hosting Custom Tackle's big Daiwa Sale. Although the sale goes through June 2nd, Sig and Frank will be here Friday, May 27 and Saturday, May 28, to answer any question you may have on offshore and inshore fishing techniques and share with you some helpful hints.

BLESSING OF THE FLEET AT CITY ISLAND

The "Blessing of the Fleet" sponsored by "St. Mary's Star of the Sea," City Island, New York will be held on Saturday, June 4th, at 2PM.

The Blessing, to be held on the east side of City Island at the Fordham Street Ferry Dock (City Island Harbor), is inter-faith and will be led by Squadron Chaplain, Father Kim. It will start from north to south, and further directions will be given by the "Picket Boat." All are welcome!

For map of the route stop by at Burck's Marine, 526 City Island Avenue, City Island, Bronx, New York.

MONTAUK MARINE BASIN'S 12TH ANNUAL SHARK TAG TOURNAMENT

The Montauk Marine Basin has scheduled its 12th Annual Shark Tag Tournament to be held at Montauk on Saturday, July 16, and Sunday, July 17, 1983. All anglers and fishing clubs are cordially invited to participate—entries to be limited to 150 boats, first come, first served basis. Applications are being accepted now.

The purpose of the tournament is not only to provide an opportunity to sportsmen to compete, but also to provide two $1,000 grants. One to be awarded to a student majoring in Marine Sciences at Southampton College, and the other to a graduate student at the Marine Sciences Research Center at the State University of New York at Stony Brook, New York.

The tournament will give several awards in many different categories. The prizes will consist of trophies and fishing tackle. There will be a men's division, women's division, junior (16 or under) division, plus special

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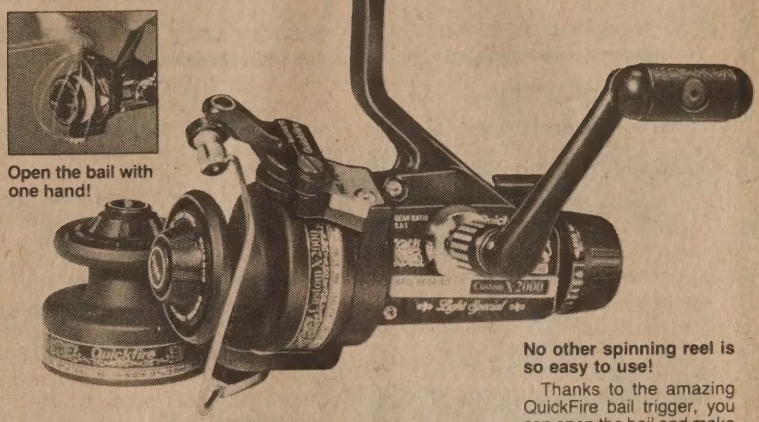

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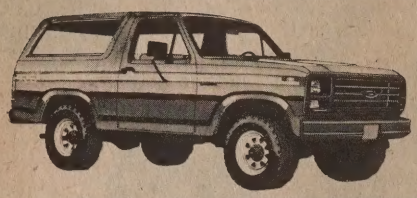

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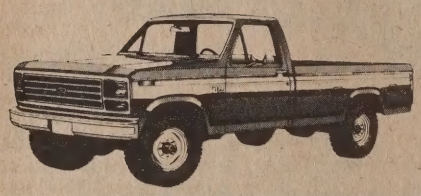

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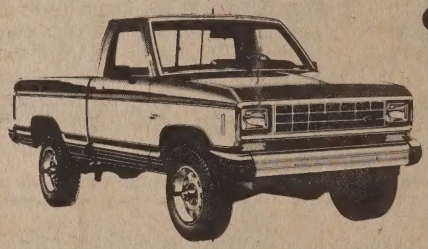

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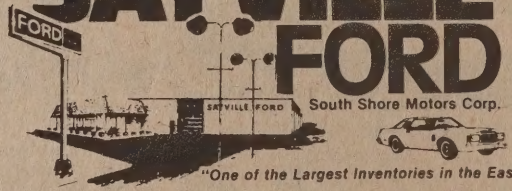

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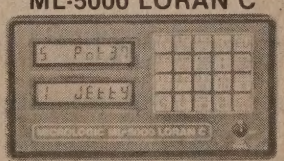

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divisions; i.e., club award, hard luck award, peewee angler award, etc.

This year's entry fee will be $150 per boat; the same as in recent years. There will be no angler's fee. Each boat entered will receive one slab of bait and one can of chum per day. Additional bait and chum will be available at prevailing rates. Docking facilities at the Marine Basin will be available to participants at prevailing rates. Due to limited spaces, berths will be assigned on a first come, first served basis.

A meeting of the anglers will be held Friday, July 15 at 7PM in the boat storage building just inside the main gate. Boat numbers, tournament badges and literature will be distributed, and questions answered concerning the tournament and rules. Jack Casey, the "Mr. Shark" biologist of the National Marine Fisheries Service Laboratory at Narragansett, Rhode Island, will be on hand to update information on his research programs, and to detail any special needs he and his research team has for specimens.

The Marine Basin will host a cocktail party in the building at 8PM, immediately following the business meeting. Anglers, crews and other support personnel, wives, girl friends, etc., are invited to attend the affair which will include an open bar and hors d'oeuvres.

STRIPED BASS BILL NETS PASSAGE BY ASSEMBLY EN CON COMMITTEE

Legislation to raise the legal size limit for striped bass caught in offshore waters to 24 inches has been approved by the Assembly Environmental Conservation Committee by an overwhelming margin, according to Assemblyman Patrick C. Halpin (D-Lindenhurst), the sponsor of the measure. Present law sets the minimum size limit at 16 inches.

"We have now passed the first hurdle toward getting this bill signed into law," Halpin said. "Raising the legal size limit of striped bass will ensure that the species survives. The stock of striped bass in our waters has been over-harvested, and as a result, the population of striped bass is at a critically low point. I am pleased that the bill was passed by the Environmental Conservation Committee in such an impressive fashion and I am hopeful that it will come to the Assembly Floor for a vote as soon as possible."

Halpin said that a delay of the bill would not only endanger the striped bass stock in New York's waters, but also in the waters of surrounding states. "In 1981 a federal/state study was issued on the preservation of striped bass. The plan that came out of that study was unanimously adopted by delegates from all the states along the Eastern Seaboard from Maine to North Carolina. Since then, most of the states have implemented the recommendations of the plan. New York has taken no action,

however, and this is putting the interstate cooperative effort in jeopardy. Some other states have been reluctant to enact the plan because of our inactivity. The supply of this species has reached an alarmingly low level," he said, "and we cannot allow the continued harvesting of small, young striped bass."

Currently, the legal limit for striped bass in the state is 16 inches, and according to Halpin, he has received opposition to his legislation from some commercial fishermen who feel that an increase to 24 inches would hurt the commercial fishing industry. "There is no question that raising the minimum size will require some adjustment," he said, "but the commercial striped bass fishery will eventually be eliminated if we do not pass this law now. The commercial catch on the Atlantic Coast has dropped from 14 million pounds in 1973 to less than four million pounds in 1981. This drastic drop is due to the fact that the fish have not been able to spawn to replenish the stock fast enough."

"The 24 inch minimum is the recommendation of the Interstate Striped Bass Management Plan, a study which took years to formulate. Marine biologists have determined that at the present 16 inch minimum, less than 10% of female striped bass are mature enough to spawn, while at 24 inches, over 75% of the population are able to spawn."

Halpin said that the long term effect of the legislation will benefit commercial and sport fishermen, for the stock would be replenished. "Fishermen will be catching larger fish at more abundant levels in the next few years. The aim of this legislation is not to hinder the commercial or recreational fishermen, but to make sure the species is protected. If we wait much longer to impose restrictions, over-fishing will permanently destroy our stock of striped bass. I urge the Legislature to approve this measure quickly to be sure that this does not happen."

MCA'S ANNUAL CHARITY SHARK TOURNEY DEADLINE NEARS

The Montauk Captains Association would like to remind all those interested in participating in their Shark Tournament that the deadline of June 1st for applications is fast approaching. This 4th Annual Charity Shark Tournament will be our biggest and best yet as the list of major tackle and equipment contributors continues to grow. This means that besides the thousands in prize money and charity donations (we have donated over $18,000 in three years to the Cancer Society, the Heart Fund, the Scouts, Volunteer Firemen, Fisheries Projects, Scholarships, etc.), there will be a very long list of valuable prizes to be won in this prestigious event. You must enter soon to be assured a spot in this tourney. For information, applications, or details on booking a member charter boat, call Captain Joe McBride in the evening at (516) 588-1227.

SEA GRANT STONY BROOK OFFICE REOPENS

Help is now available to Long Islanders faced with problems regarding shore line erosion or the operation and management of marine trade and recreational facilities. On March 31, the Sea Grant Extension Program reopened its office at the Marine Sciences Research Center on the Stony Brook campus of the State University of New York. Jay Tanski, the regional extension specialist assigned to this office, will help members of the Long Island community resolve current and projected coastal issues. He will focus on developing educational programs and providing up-to-date information on problems associated with shore line processes, erosion control structures and cost-efficient management of marine trade and recreational facilities. Potential users of this Sea Grant program include coastal residents, government decision-makers and members of the business community who are involved in the utilization and conservation of Long Island's extensive coastal resources.

For more information contact the Sea Grant Extension Office at (516) 246-7777.

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THE BIG CHANGE AT N.M.F.S.

by Al Ristori

The current crop of appointees in the N.M.F.S. has expressed a refreshing willingness to communicate with the recreational fishing community.

Those readers who have followed my writings about marine conservation over the years are probably well aware that I've thrown plenty of brickbats at the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS). Therefore, it may come as something of a surprise that I'm devoting an article to what appears to be a real turnaround in that agency. While we still have our disagreements on some subjects, there is now a serious attempt to take into account the needs of recreational fishermen and improve the conservation of marine resources.

The basic reason for the change seems to be the elevation of Bill Gordon to the post of Assistant Administrator for Fisheries. When you clear away the bureaucratic gobbledlygook, that means Gordon is in charge of NMFS. The assistant administrator refers to his department's being part of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), headed by Administrator John Byrne. NOAA is, in turn, part of the Commerce Department.

Gordon, a marine biologist with a great deal of administrative experience in the northeast, was backed by recreational fishing groups (such as the Sport Fishing Institute and National Coalition for Marine Conservation) for the NMFS post. After what went on during the Carter Administration, we were pleasantly surprised when a real non-political pro was placed in charge of NMFS. The appointment of Byrne, another scientist and administrator, to head NOAA represented yet another step forward in getting these critical agencies moving in the proper direction. While the Regan Administration has been cutting back on funding, marine anglers are far better off with the situation now than when the agencies were flush with money—but completely oblivious of the importance of recreational fishing.

At this point a bit of background may be useful. Over a decade ago, Congress passed a controversial reorganization plan which had a negative impact on marine sport fisheries. The Interior Department used to have a bureau which was in charge of both fresh and salt water recreational fishing. However, the reorganization plan created NOAA and dumped the marine sport fisheries into what was the old Bureau of Commercial Fisheries under the new title of National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS). Not surprisingly, commercial interests dominated the new setup and many of the best people on the sport fishing side resigned. As those of us who had fought the organization plan expected, it will an uphill fight to gain recognition for recreational fishing and meaningful conservation. Furthermore, the agency was opposed to our efforts to get a 200 mile limit.

With sport fishing groups finally showing some muscle in the successful fight for the 200 mile limit, the attitude at NMFS did improve considerably. Bob Schoning, who was in charge at the time, was very receptive to recreational fishing proposals and scheduled frequent meetings of marine angling leaders in his Washington office. His initial selections for the fishery management councils also reflected a generally fair balancing of commercial and recreational interests—really far more than we had realistically hoped for.

Unfortunately, those initial signs of hope at NMFS were soon dampened. When the Carter Administration came in, the scientist Schoning went out. In his place came a blatantly political appointee, a lawyer named Terry Leitzell who didn't seem to know a flounder from a swordfish. What followed was four years of steady decline in a confused and demoralized agency that wasn't trusted any more by most commercial interests than it was by the recreational side. Not only did the regular meetings with sport fishing leaders stop, but Leitzell made it clear to them that he really didn't care about what they had to say!

As an original member of the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council (1976-1979), I found myself in frequent opposition to NMFS on a wide range of issues. The final blow was when the Secretary (actually Leitzell) sat on a council management plan far beyond the maximum period provided in the law—in effect using a pocket veto where there was no legal right to do so. My attempts to get the council

To contact regional N.M.F.S. recreational specialists use the following addresses:

Tom Morrissey
N.M.F.S., State Fish Pier
Gloucester, MA. 01930
(617) 281-3600

Bob Lippson
N.M.F.S., Oxford Lab
Oxford, MD 21654
(301) 226-5771

Bob Hanks
N.M.F.S., U.S. Custom House
314 Fore Street
Portland, MA. 04101
(207) 780-3221

to fight this usurption of power weren't successful and I was hardly surprised at not being reappointed that summer—despite being the governor's preferred choice for the position.

It wasn't long after the appointment of Gordon that the changes in the National Marine Fisheries Service became apparent. A new marine recreational fisheries policy was approved in October, 1981 and NMFS funded an extensive study "to assess the significance of the economic activities associated with the marine recreational fishery industry and analyze the industry's growth opportunities." Since then, considerable progress has been made in bringing marine angling views into the decision-making process.

Here in the northeast region, this is particularly clear. The region is headed by Allen Peterson, a marine biologist and sport fisherman. There is now also a Marine Recreational Fishing (MRF) Coordinator at the NMFS offices in Gloucester. Tom Morrissey works full time on recreational fishing problems and has come up with a five-year plan for sport fishing in the northeast region. Another important step was the appointment by Peterson of two regional liaison officers. While these two officers are assigned to take care of all problems in their regions, they've been instructed to pay particular attention to liaison with sport fishermen.

The mid-Atlantic portion of the Northeast Region is served by Bob Lippson, operating out of Oxford, Maryland. Bob Hanks takes care of New England from his base in Portland. Both men flew into Islip last fall in order to discuss their roles with Vic Rivas, president of the New York Sportfishing Federation, Bruce De Young of New York Sea Grant, and myself. Later they cooperated in setting up the Sportsmen's Forum in Farmingdale, which was very successful. Quite a few meetings were required to iron out the details, and Bob Lippson attended all of them. Many NMFS officials then participated in the forum, including regional director Peterson and artificial reef specialist Dick Stone from the Washington office.

According to the five-year plan, the marine recreational fisheries goal of the Northeast Region is to "Increase recreational satisfaction derived from the marine and anadromous fisheries resources of the region, and provide a favorable climate for the marine recreational fishing industry to thrive and expand." Specifically, they want to: **1.** Increase communication and coordination with the marine recreational fishing community and ensure appropriate consideration of recreational fishery interests in all of the Region's programs; **2.** Enhance the effectiveness of conservation and management from the marine recreational fisheries perspective; and **3.** Ensure that recreational needs and interests are considered in planning coastal use strategies by state and local governments.

We can't argue with the intent of the program, but putting it into practice is something else again. Fortunately, there has also been progress in that direction. At a meeting in Philadelphia in April representatives of sport fishing groups and state officials got a chance to criticize the five-year plan and suggest changes. The discussion was open and very frank. We all took our potshots at NMFS, but it was all taken in good spirit. In fact, I was surprised to find that at least a little research had been devoted to a couple of areas I've been complaining about for years: the lack of knowledge regarding where the western stocks of cod and whiting come from. Without that knowledge I don't see how there can be real management, but the northeast researchers weren't pointed in that direction until recently.

Some very good ideas came out of the Philadelphia session, including one from Bruce De Young about setting up a northeast sport fishing development authority, such as the one currently operating (with government support) for the commercial fishermen. The state representatives called for closer cooperation in order to avoid duplication of effort, and there was considerable discussion of the definition of a sport fisherman and of licensing in various fisheries. One point I hope we put across is the desire to have Tom Morrissey acting as an advocate for us in Gloucester. As concerned as they may be, the distance involved tends to dull the perceptions of our problems—as illustrated by the closing of the giant tuna season last year just as the Mud Hole fishing was starting.

At the Washington level, too, there are very positive signs. The idea of interacting with sport fishing leaders has been revived. Last December I attended a "brown bag" luncheon at NMFS headquarters at which Bill Gordon spelled out the problems and prospects of the agency, as well as the progress made so far. Indeed, in his end-of-the-year report, Gordon noted that "The necessary and important interaction with the various constituent groups that we serve has been too long neglected" and "I view interaction with Congress and the national constitutent groups as one of my primary functions."

The many changes made at the national and regional levels of NMFS seem to be creating a better atmosphere for conservation and recreational fishing concerns. By no means are all our problems solved (as illustrated by the original tuna regulations which we had to blast), but at least we're now getting a fair and sympathetic hearing. No matter what inland conservationists may think of the Reagan Administration's appointments in other areas, the marine angler can be pleased with the quality of appointees in NMFS!

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MORE FLUKING BASICS

by Matt Ahern

Our resident sinker bouncer continues his dissertation on the basics of fluke fishing.

As I've said many, many times: I've never known a sinker bouncer who didn't enjoy fluke fishing.

True enough, some fellows may prefer flounder over cod, blackfish over sea bass and porgies, but when it comes to fluke fishing, every sinker bouncer I know makes it a point to get in on the act as often as possible. Very popular indeed are fluke with Long Island and New Jersey fishermen.

Why is this so?

Well, I believe several factors enter into this choice. Whether you agree with me or not, it takes skill to consistently catch fluke; by no stretch of the imagination can fluke be considered easy marks for the baited hook. The beginner soon discovers that fluke take a bit of finesse on his part if he wishes to succeed. Therefore, fluke present a real challenge to the sinker bouncer; matching wits with these large flatties hones his fishing skill to a fine edge.

Another reason fluke draw throngs of anglers each summer is their ease of availability. Long hauls to the fishing grounds aren't necessary. Each summer day finds shore fishermen catching their share of fluke from deep-water creeks, canal bulkheads, piers, jetties, and breakwaters—often with little difficulty. Fishermen in rented skiffs have it made, too, for depending upon where the fishing is done, fluke are quite often found but a short distance from the fishing station.

But probably the biggest inducement of all is the fact that experienced fishermen know their chances of catching a six or eight pounder, or larger, are always good. They know (as I know) that the largest fluke is still down there waiting to be caught. Each summer, doormat fluke up to 15 pounds (and higher) are landed by proud anglers.

And these large fluke aren't taken just by experienced fishermen. More than once have I seen the beginner take the pool when aboard a party boat, much to the chagrin of the veteran angler.

All any fluke is interested in is that the bait be presented in a natural-like manner. If it is, Mr. Fluke will take it from there.

Of all the articles you will ever read on successful fluke fishing, no information is as important as that last paragraph. Do not continue with this article till you have reread it. Cherish and savor its full meaning and I guarantee you will have no trouble catching fluke. (We'll get to proper bait presentation in a minute.)

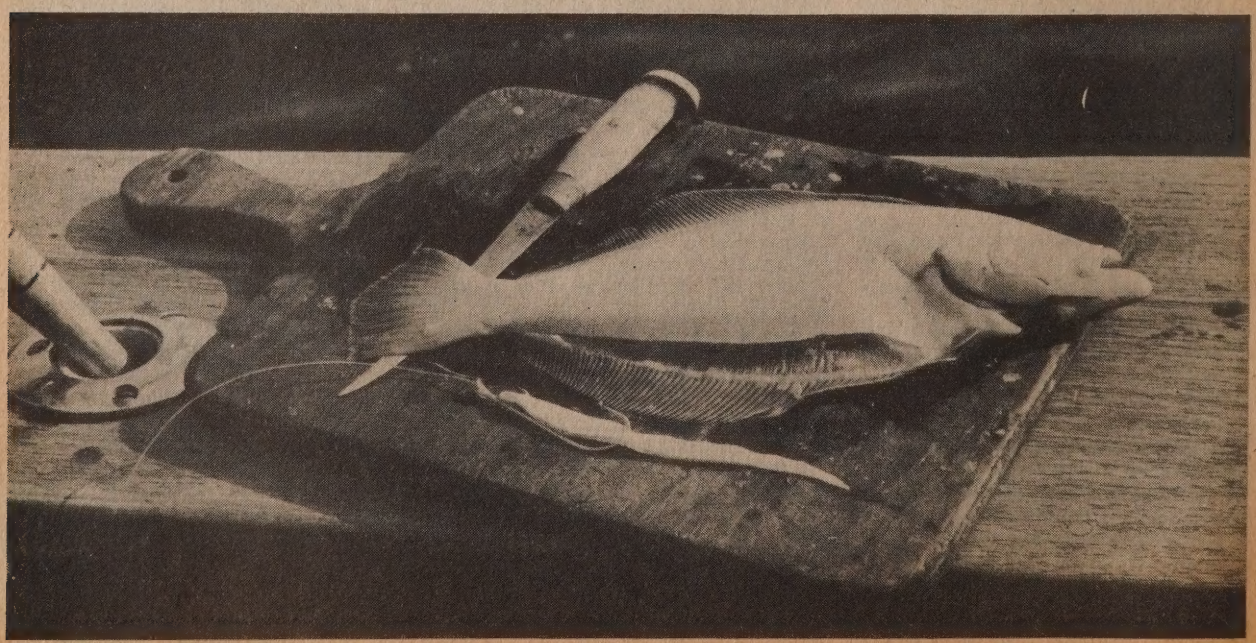
When fishing the bays and other sheltered areas, medium-weight spinning tackle is ideal. When fishing where light sinkers can be used, some fishermen use flounder outfits with success. But I believe it's best to use the medium-weight stuff. It's quite possible to hook a fish of two pounds and follow it with one of eight or ten pounds—even in the most unlikely places.

When using light tackle under these conditions, even the most experienced fisherman will have his work cut out for him.

When fishing around inlets, along beach fronts, and in the deeper ocean waters when party boat fishing, it is best to use conventional tackle. This needn't be heavy codfishing tackle. Half the fun of fishing comes from letting the fish zip around at the end of your line. It will always attempt to do so, but its efforts are in vain when heavy tackle is used. A medium-weight outfit such as used for blackfish, or sea bass and porgies, will do the job and offer much sport.

Always used a matching reel for whatever type outfit you decide to use. For bay, creek, or shore fishing, fill the reel with 10 to 15 pound test mono, and for ocean fishing, or around inlets, you'll find 20 pound test best.

Be sure the reel is of good construction and that all moving parts



A three inch strip of fluke belly rates high on the list of the author's favorite fluke baits.

operate smoothly. Don't forget to occasionally check the reel's drag. You'd be surprised how many large fluke are lost each year due to drag mechanisms that bind at crucial moments. This is usually caused by sand and salt accumulation, but it matters not what causes it, the results can often be disastrous. Last summer while fishing near Shinnecock Inlet, I watched helplessly as one of the largest fluke I've seen in years was lost this way by a nearby shore fisherman. We could have both cried. A word to the wise is sufficient.

As with all bottom fishing, rigging for fluke is no problem. There's only one thing fishermen should keep in mind: stay away from the elaborate hardware. Forget the spinners, flashers, and beautifully-hued beads. Watch the old-time master fisherman for pointers. You can bet he doesn't use those gizmos. These boys don't fool around. They take their fluke fishing seriously, and it makes sense to copy their methods.

Now for that bone of contention: hooks.

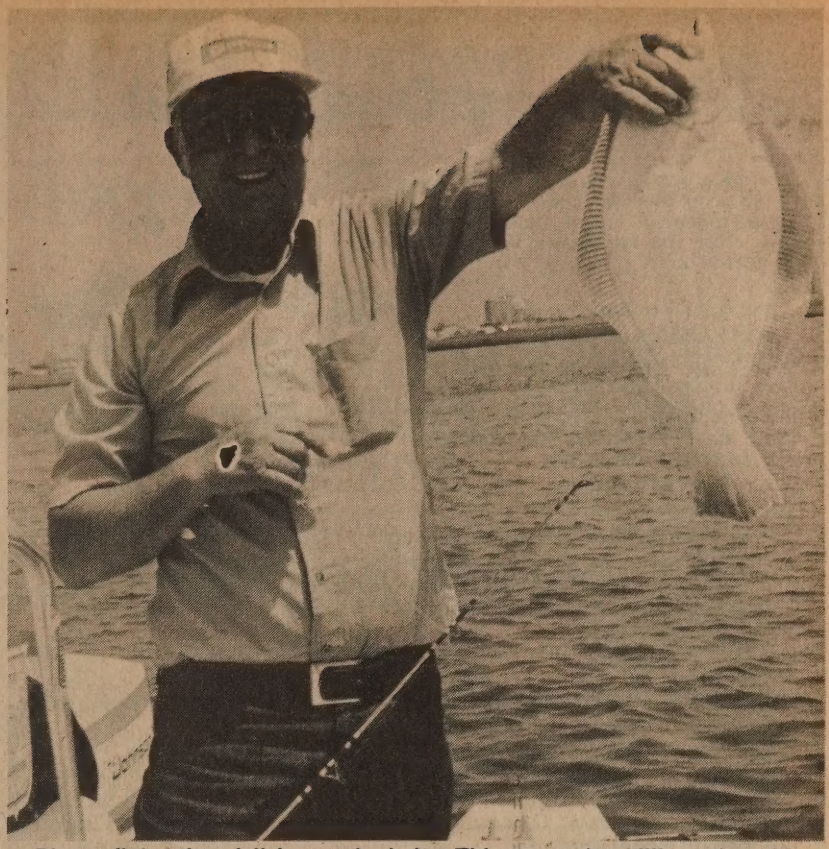
Most fluke fishermen use a Carlisle hook. These heavy, long-shanked hooks in popular use today are 3/0, 4/0, and 5/0. The smaller 3/0 can be used in bays where the average fluke is smaller than those found in the ocean. (Not a hard, fast rule.) Should you connect with a doormat while using this smaller hook, you will find it strong enough to handle the fish. Those larger 5/0s have use in late summer when fishing the ocean wrecks for doormats. After that, that's all the good I can say about them.

I say this because after over 55 years of fluke chasing, I've come to the conclusion that fluke can at times be one of the most exasperating of fish. Most times, fortunately, this isn't so. But I've had days when fluke absolutely refused to go near bait anchored down with heavy Carlisle hooks.

If someone had sprung this on me before I found out personally about those Carlisle hooks, I most likely would have skewered him with a jaundiced eye. But the bad results these hooks sometimes bring was proven to me one day many years ago in the early Thirties while party boat fishing off the Rockaways.

The party boat I was on that day was the old White Eagle out of Canarsie, skippered by that master fisherman Connie Rank. (Any of you old-timers remember?) Fishing was slow, which was something unusual when fluke fishing those days. Remember, this was during the time when a daily catch of 30, 40, or more fluke per fisherman was the expected thing.

My records show that until I was shown how to catch finicky fluke, I had but four fluke in my butter tub that day. Most of the other passengers had a like amount. But there was one fisherman in the stern who seemed to have no difficulty hooking



Bigger fluke often fall for combo baits. This one took a killie and squid combo.

fish after fish. I recall watching and wondering just what he was doing that made him so successful. Even then as a kid I had sense enough to know this fisherman wasn't just "lucky." This old-timer was charming the fluke by doing something no one else on board knew about. I was unaware of it at the time, but I was witnessing my first master fisherman in action.

Luckily for me, but unluckily for the thousands of fluke that were to later come my way over the years, this fisherman took compassion on a certain knee-pants kid. He motioned me to come and fish alongside him.

I needed no second invitation, believe me. The first thing he told me to do was to get rid of the long-shanked Carlisle hook I was using. He gave me a 5/0 Sproat tied on the usual three foot leader. He then told me to forget the jigging methods I had been using and to jig with no more than two inch lifts of the rod tip, which I'm sure barely made the live killie bait twitch on bottom.

"Don't wait for a bite," he told me. "You won't get one, anyway. You'll feel a little extra weight, that's all. Then reel all the slack out of your line and hook the fish with a quick snap of the wrist. It's easy. Watch, now."

And he proceeded to do just that, hooking a good-sized fluke with ease. It took me several minutes to master the method, but by gosh, it worked—and it still works today whenever the fluke put on their finicky act.

Actually, I believe the reason for this method's success lies in the use of a lighter, regular-shanked Sproat, rather than the heavier long-shanked Carlisle. No doubt this allows the live killie freedom of movement, thereby attracting the fluke. The old-timer used no "black magic." Just some well-thought out common sense, which is what all good fish-producing techniques are based upon. (Incidentally, I reduced the size of that Sproat hook to 4/0 as the years passed and found this worked even better.)

I believe that regular jigging methods, or fast drifts, probably do not interest a fluke that is off its feed; but if that bait is right there within easy reach and no strain or pain involved to reach it, the fluke will take advantage of its opportunity. This, I believe, is why the aforementioned method works.

I've also experimented with smaller Sproats—#1, for instance. The results are the same, except that I missed more fish than one would expect to. I suppose the moral to this story is that we fishermen should never hesitate to experiment. Your efforts will probably be in vain most times, but what if like my kind-hearted master fisherman aboard the White Eagle, you do come up with something that makes all the heartache worthwhile?

As for bait, I don't think there is a finer fluke-catcher than a lively, two inch killie. Hook carefully through the mouth and out the gill cover. Avoid

(Continued on next page.)

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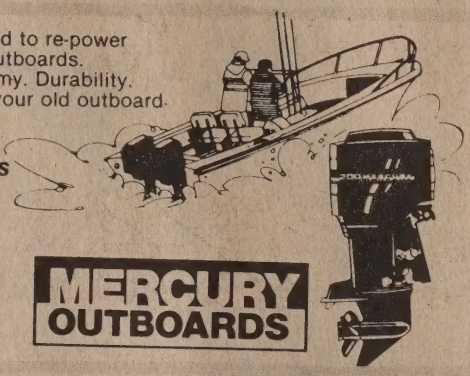

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nicking the gills; these are the fish's lungs and to do so will weaken the killie and make it useless for bait.

Next in preference would be a slice of sea robin tail, a three inch strip of fluke belly (especially along the ocean beaches), a whole spearing, and a three or four inch strip of squid, in that order. This order of choice is mine, and mine alone. Some experienced fishermen might dispute the order of preference I'm sure, but this is what works best for me.

As noted about fluke belly, I find this works exceptionally well along ocean beaches, especially when used with a live killy. The sea robin, spearing, and squid can be used to good advantage in all bays, creeks, and channels. Some days sea robin strips work wonders along the ocean beaches and around inlets—especially in late summer. There is just no way of telling what will work best at any given time, but the fisherman armed with lively killies will always have the advantage.

Never bunch spearing bait. I know you won't do it deliberately, but when frozen spearing is thawed, it becomes soft, often mushy, and then the headaches begin. It will hang in one unrecognizable blob on the bend of the hook. It is always best to use fresh **unfrozen** spearing. Run the hook through the spearing's head, then about midpoint in the body. Allow the point and barb to protrude. It is to your advantage to be sure the spearing appears as natural-like as possible. No self-respecting fluke would go near a spearing which is twisting and twirling along the bottom in the manner of a whirling dervish.

Some fishermen hook their spearing only once through the head. They claim the bait appears more natural this way. True enough. But there's one drawback. Should a fluke hit when the bait is being lifted on the jig, it is quite likely it will be wrenched free before the hook can be set. But try it both ways when the opportunity presents itself and see which works best for you.

When using fish bait such as sea robin, fluke belly, and squid, hook through the widest part (these should be sliced into triangular shapes for best results). Impart plenty of action, allowing the strip to dance along the bottom. Give the fluke time to munch a bit before attempting to set the hook.

If you wish to become a dedicated fluke fisherman, don't hesitate to read all you can on the subject. Read those other fluke articles. Just because I've been fishing over 60 years doesn't mean I know everything about it—I'm still learning. I sometimes think I know nothing about it and that every fluke I catch is a bonus; a sort of sop tossed to me by the fishing gods to make up for the hell they've put me through all these years.

But whatever it is, I wouldn't give it up for all the proverbial tea in China. I'm just getting my feet wet, so to speak.

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TEMPT A TIDERUNNER

by Fred Golofaro

Suckers for artificials, this trait adds to the weaks popularity and makes them susceptible to a wide range of lures.

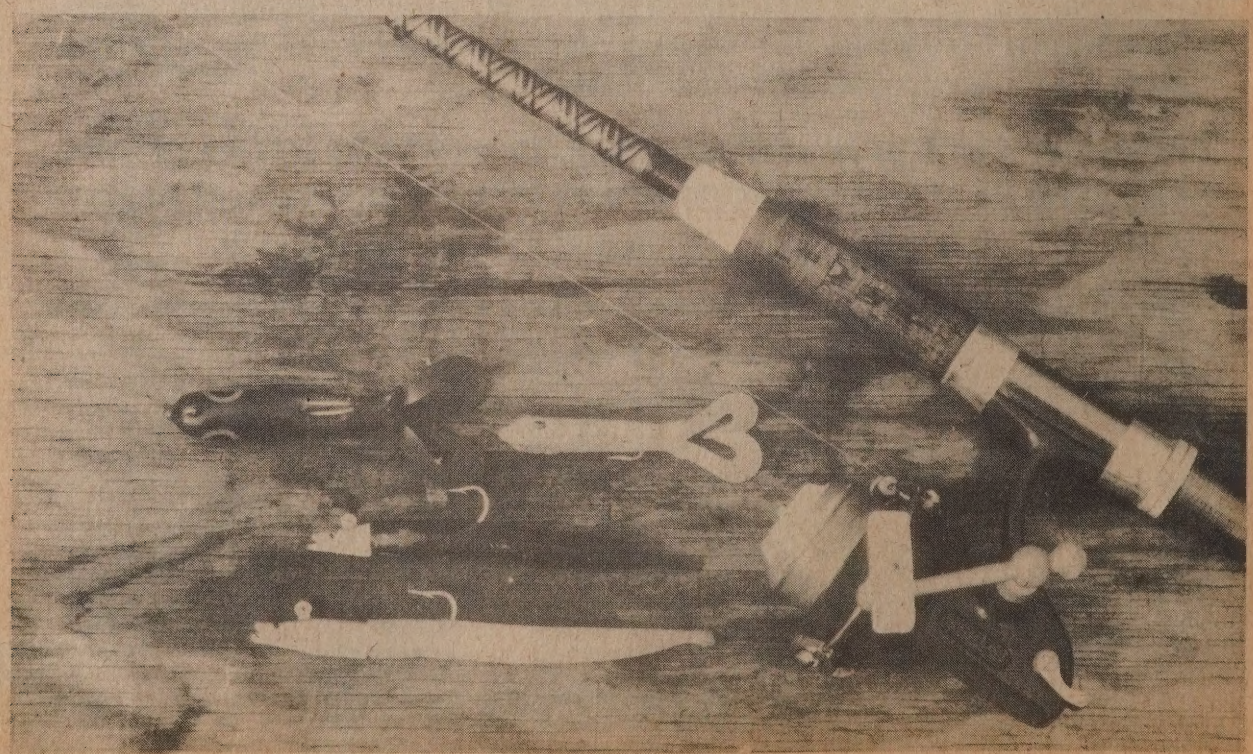
I suppose everyone has their own reason for loving "Mr. Weakfish," and make no mistake about it, they do rank as the favorite game fish of many anglers in our area. Their receptiveness to a variety of artificials, their availability during the daylight hours, their size and eating qualities all lend to their popularity. But it's that first quality that many anglers find so intriguing. Weakfish have long displayed a fondness for rubber bodied leadheads, swimming plugs, metal lures and bucktails.

Soft-bodied, rubber artificials continue to be favorites of the weakfish set and overall, account for more weaks than all other lures and baits combined. Reaching back to the early and mid-70s when weakfish stocks were in the midst of a remarkable resurgence, the universal lures for yellowfins were those simple, rubber bodied shrimp imitations. Boone Touts and Bagley Salty Dogs became household names, as these lures accounted for untold numbers of weaks. More recently, Manns Jelly Worms in an array of flavors and colors have been the vogue, though the rubber shrimp still maintains a faithful following.

While these rubber lures continue to take fish, the decline of the spring fishery in Peconic and Great South Bays has caused some weakfish sharpies to resort to some pretty unorthodox combinations of baits used in conjunction with these and other soft-bodied lures. For the purists among us, some of these combos are enough to turn one's stomach, but the bottom line is that they do produce fish, frequently when a plain version of the same lure will not.

A favorite trick in the bays the past couple of seasons (and one I would never admit to practicing) has been to further adorn a leadheaded jelly worm with a strip of squid. Other anglers choose to drape a sandworm along with their jelly worm, while others go still one step further by using both baits in conjunction with their artificial. For all there is to be said about natural presentations, such conglomerations make a mockery of this aspect of the game.

There are other rubber bodied imitations that deserve to be included in your weakfish arsenal. A couple of newcomers to the scene include Boone's recently introduced Sand Eel Jig which is a dead ringer for the real thing. If I had to bet my money on a sure winner when tiderunners are on a sand eel kick, I'd put it here. The other relatively new creation which deserves some attention and has already proven itself to a number of New Jersey and New York anglers who tested them last season, is the Sevenstrand Clout which, to me, looks like it best resembles a small squid. I first happened upon the lure at one of the winter shows when I overheard a conversation next door at the Sevenstrand booth between a sales rep and a customer. In short, the customer, who had come upon a few of the lures during the season, was doing all he could to get the rep to part with some of his sample stock, while mumbling something about all of the school bass and weaks he took on them the previous summer. While I'm always reluctant to tout the virtues of a lure I've yet to prove by my own experiences, I think it's safe to say that both of these artificials bear watching,



At the top are Sevenstrand's new Clouts. Below are Boone's new Sand Eel Jigs in two sizes.

and maybe even some experimenting with, this season.

Some parts of the Island have enjoyed very good summer runs of weaks in recent years. That stretch of Long Island Sound between Lloyd and Mt. Misery Points, the Tin Can Grounds in New York Bight and Montauk Point all being prime examples. The good fishing that has characterized these areas has seen more traditional lures continue to take a heavy toll of fish. Sand eel imitations are the ticket in these areas and that accounts for the tremendous success of Tiger Tails (an elongated leadhead fitted with a short length of narrow diameter surge tube), small diamond jigs and tube combos such as Ava's 007 or A17 and the TriFin Whiptail (a swimming leadhead fitted with a three inch length of narrow tube). These same lures account for weaks wherever they range but have been especially effective in the above mentioned areas.

For those who enjoy catching fish on plugs, tiderunners have a soft spot for swimming plugs such as the Rebel and RedFin. The surface swimming models of these two favorites are popular with the north shore tin boat set. Casting the 4½ and 5½ inch versions of these plugs in tight along the beach after dark has produced some fine scores. The sinking models of these plugs are effective in the deeper waters of channels and inlets and will produce fish during daylight as well. One such place that comes to mind is Great South Bay's West Channel. Each year in late May and early June, 5½ inch sinking Rebels (black/silver and mackerel finished) account for good numbers of big tide-runners here. Surf fishermen know full well the value of these swimming plugs when weaks, or bass for that matter, are the target. I know some casters who use nothing but these plugs for their after-dark sojourns and they always manage to rack up a pretty impressive tally of weaks by season's end.

With the exception of diamond jigs, most of the metal lures which account for weaks fall into the realm of the surf caster. This is due more to a lack of use on the part of boatmen rather than the lures not being effective fish catchers. Very few boatmen find occasion to cast metal lures for weaks it seems, although when such times do arise, the #3 Hopkins or a one ounce TriFin Spoon Jig are most often the preferred tools.

No discussion of weakfish lures would be complete without making mention of my favorite, that being the humble bucktail. I have to confess here, though, that for the past couple of seasons, I have taken to adorning that humble bucktail with a nine inch strawberry flavored Jelly Worm. Blasphemous to some maybe, but weakfish like it fine and you have to admit, it's still a notch above draping a Jelly Worm with a strip of squid or, of all things, a sandworm!

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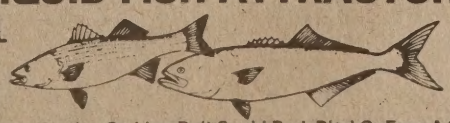

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For a free Long Island Fisherman Bumper Sticker send a send-addressed, stamped business size envelope to: The Fisherman Bumper Sticker Contest, Post Office Box 1994, Sag Harbor, New York 11963.

A PLACE CALLED TURTLE COVE

by Andy Regina

Nestled into the Bronx shoreline, this popular area has a reputation for producing stripers all season long.

The years have seen a vast change in the shape of our shore lines, perhaps none greater than in my own backyard here in the Bronx. Now only a few open areas remain and of those precious few, not all are productive. Right off the bat, Turtle Cove and the Orchard Beach Lagoon come to mind, not only because they remain fairly productive, but because they have withstood the test of time.

Turtle Cove is probably the most well known shore fishing spot in Western Long Island Sound because of the consistency of the striped bass fishing it offers; long known for some of the earliest catches of bass in the Sound, the Cove produces school fish throughout the entire summer and fall, too. At times, as if to prove the uncertainty of fishing to us, some huge cows are pulled out of that puddle, too; bass in the 20 and 30 pound class, made all the more formidable due to the fact that most anglers fish the Cove with light and ultralight tackle. In fact, one of the largest bass I personally have seen yanked out of the Cove was a striper of about 20 pounds or so, taken one summer night by a guy with a flyrod. Mostly though, it's sit and wait with bait or plugging with tiny floating plugs of about two or three inches, either the regular floating or shallow swimming plugs or their jointed models. The plugs must be floaters or shallow swimmers because there isn't much water in Turtle Cove at all. High tides get the most (or only) action because of this fact, plus the fact that at dead low tide there is no water at all there, just one giant mud flat—like Little Neck Bay at low ebb. Because of this, night tides get the nod, along with dull, grey, cloudy days. With such skinny water to feed in, the

(Continued on next page.)

The appearance of Turtle Cove belies the spot's productive nature.

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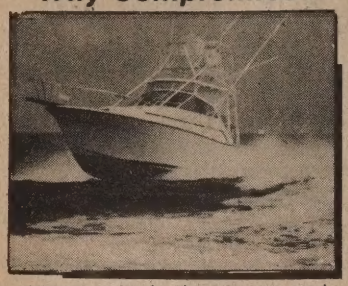

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bass—even hungry bass—need some sort of protection, protection not afforded them by the shallow water, so they work this area under the cover of darkness.

There's a few things you should know if you're going to fish Turtle Cove that might make your trip more pleasant, if not more productive. First off, this is strictly beach rat heaven. No boats can fish there because of the shallowness of the joint; if some hardy souls make the attempt, it had better be at the top of the flood or else they are gonna push the boat out by hand if they're not careful. Second of all, if you fish at night, you must bring two things for survival: a good insect repellent (or else the mosquitoes will eat you up alive!) and either a companion or two, or a gun. Not everyone roaming the area at night is a fisherman, and it is far safer to be prepared than to suffer the results of a possible mugging or robbery. While fishing, you will be standing on soggy turf and in mud most of the time, so a pair of boots is a good idea, even during the hot days or nights of summer—it ain't just for warmth, but to keep your feet dry. Hip boots or chest-highs are not necessary unless you insist on wading—then they're mandatory.

Light tackle brings out the utmost potential of school bass, first because the fish themselves are not too big and secondly, because with tiny tackle you can better present tiny lures that closely resemble resident baits. I have two favorite outfits—one for when I go there by car and the other for when I take public transit. There is a bus (Crosstown #12) that stops right near the Cove, right before the traffic circle in Pelham Bay Park, the circle directing you to City Island or Orchard Beach. This bus runs along Fordham Road and can be boarded at several subway stops along the way, like Pelham Parkway on the White Plains line and Pelham Bay on the local line. Because I don't like to carry a one-piece stick on public carriers, I go for the jointed outfit, but otherwise, I prefer the one-piece rod all the time. Both rods are Abu-Garcia, both have similar actions (medium light), and both are tiny. The one-piece stick is a five foot, eight inch wisp of Boron that weighs about an ounce and a half; while the jointed job is five and a half feet of Graphite, going about two ounces because of the center ferrule. On each are mounted twin midget spinning reels, Abu-Garcia "Cardinal," model 752, filled with eight pound test mono line.

The bait that gets the most attention is whole sand worms, followed closely by its mortal enemy, the blood worm, and then fresh cut bait—either chunks or fillets of bunker (menhaden) or mackerel. The magic word with cut baits is "fresh," as stale or frozen baits just do not seem to do as well as fresh-caught stuff. Of course, there will be times when someone will catch bass on the vilest, stinkiest bait you ever saw in your life, but that's a rare occurrence at best. If some Kamikaze bass wants to commit Hari-Kari, he'll eat anything, but most stripers are a bit more fussy in their eating habits than that. Our bait rig is usually a fishfinder rig, fished dead on the bottom. We have had success with hi-lo rigs and float-buoyed rigs, too, with either worms or cut bait (and sometimes one of each) on the up and down affair and worms exclusively under the float. For that fishfinder rig, snell a 3/0 gold Beak or Eagle Claw hook, the kind with the baitholder shank, onto a three foot leader of 20 pound test mono. Now slip the loose end of your line clear through the eye of a sinker, the lightest one you can get away with, and tie it to a good, ball bearing swivel. Using a ball bearing swivel is important, to eliminate any possible line twist as well as to prevent any possibility of the fish gaining leverage against the hook. Using the best swivel available will ensure this fact, and in my opinion, the best one you can buy is made by Sampo. Just take a moment to compare a Sampo swivel under tension against a comparable swivel, and you'll see that the Sampo swivel wins every time. Tie the end of your line to the swivel with an improved clinch knot, and you're set.

With the fishfinder rig you can use any bait you choose: the barbed shank of the baitholder hook holds whole seaworms perfectly in place during the cast (which does not have to be Herculean by any means) as well as during the time the bait is laying on the bottom, waiting for some hungry bass to pick it up. If bottom pests decimate baits before the bass can get at 'em, a leader float will solve that problem, keeping your expensive worms out of the reach of crabs and bergalls, but still in the range of prowling stripers. Now Eagle Claw has come out with the perfect bait hook, called the "Super 6 Snelled Hook," that is made without any knots that could possibly tear fragile worms, and an eyeless hook, which permits you to slide the worm past the hook and up the leader without hindrance. Baitholder barbs on the shank keep the bait in place and all knots are replaced by smooth-heat-welded junctions at the loop and where the leader is snelled to the hook. As of now, the hooks are only available in sizes 2, 4, 6 and 8, and the length of the snell is only six inches, but a size 2 hook is all right for school bass (many are caught accidentally by flounder fishermen, on small Chestertown hooks, each spring) and the snell can be tied to a piece of leader material to get that desired three foot length we all like. Tie one end of the leader to the end loop of the snell with a clinch knot or an improved clinch knot and you're in business, just like that.

The hi-lo rig used here is the standard rig used everywhere: one hook set about two or three inches above a sinker and a second stinger tied into the line about two feet above

that. However, here we must opt for 3/0 hooks because most cut baits are heavier and bulkier than worms. The leader should be 30 pound test now, due to the heavier hook, and about 18 inches long; at that leader length, your top hook will not tangle with the bottom one, or vice-versa, assuming the top hook is affixed at least two feet above the bottom barb, as we suggested above. We usually put a fillet or chunk of bunker or mackerel down low, and a worm up high. A bass will go for high-flying worms you know, and we have taken them as high above the bottom as eight or ten feet, according to water depth and feeding levels, but usually under a float rather than on a hi-lo rig. Whole sandworms, suspended about three or four feet below a surface float, get a lot of bass here, especially at night on a high incoming tide or the start of the top of the ebb. Slide a big, fat, juicy worm onto the hook and slip it up the shank as far as it will go, then sneak the point and barb out through the body of the worm. If you like, you can then pin another wiggler on the hook through the hard part of the head, and present a more tempting bait to the bass, who are suckers for seaworms anyhow. Lob the float out gently, to prevent snapping-off the worm at the hook bend, and let the float do just that—float—all around the joint if you can, covering as much area as possible. On incoming water, cast out as far as you can under these circumstances and permit the float to gently waft back towards you as you continuously reel in slack line. On outgoing water, do the opposite: cast close-by and pay out line slowly as the float is carried away by the ebb.

The Cove is a haven for elvers, those baby eels, and shoestrings, their slightly bigger brothers. Later on, as waters warm, the Cove is host to shoals of spearing and killies, two more good baits to use there. This proliferation of tiny baits prompts the use, nay it **mandates** the use of tiny lures. We use a lot of small floating and swimming plugs there; some guys argue the merits of jointed models while others insist on using unjointed plugs to the exclusion of everything else. Everyone, however, agrees on one thing, and that is, that using sinking or deep-running plugs is impractical as well as almost impossible in this shallow mud puddle. While this is so, once in awhile a tiny (1/8 ounce) bucktail jig really raises hell with the striped bass, as well as with their kissing cousins, the white perch. When my green-backed plugs strike out (it happens!) and I can't raise any takers with sandworms, I'll tip a tiny jig with half of a sandworm and work it back to me as slowly as I can without hanging-up. Then, while the rest of the gang looks on, I'll have a ball trying to get that spunky little devil in on ultralight spinning gear, laughing out loud as I thank the Good Lord for providing a fish tank for me close to home, at a place called Turtle Cove.

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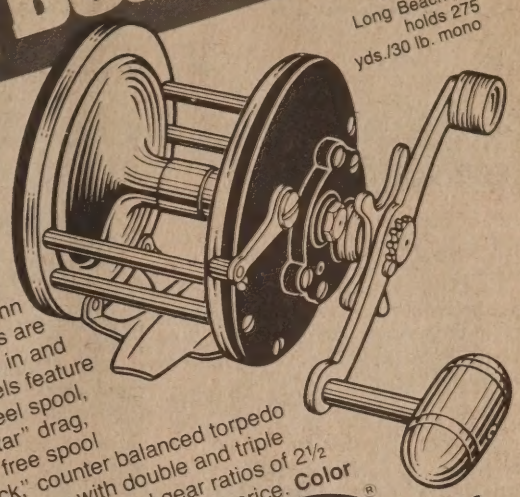

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RIGGING YOUR SLIP

by Ray Hendrickson

An expert in the boating field, the author expounds on some of the intricacies involved in this all important task.

"Three O'clock in the Morning" is a fine old song title, but a lousy time to be down at the dock checking lines. Still, it's the first dead low water since you put your first boat in its slip—and you want to be sure. Well, at least you had a bit of daylight left when you were babysitting at high water.

Tides, both high and low, are the governing parameter dictating how we rig a slip. Of course, if you're tethered to a floating dock tidal effects are negated; but lashed alongside a bulkhead or strung between pilings, the tides test your rig twice daily—and some tests can sink a grossly mis-rigged boat.

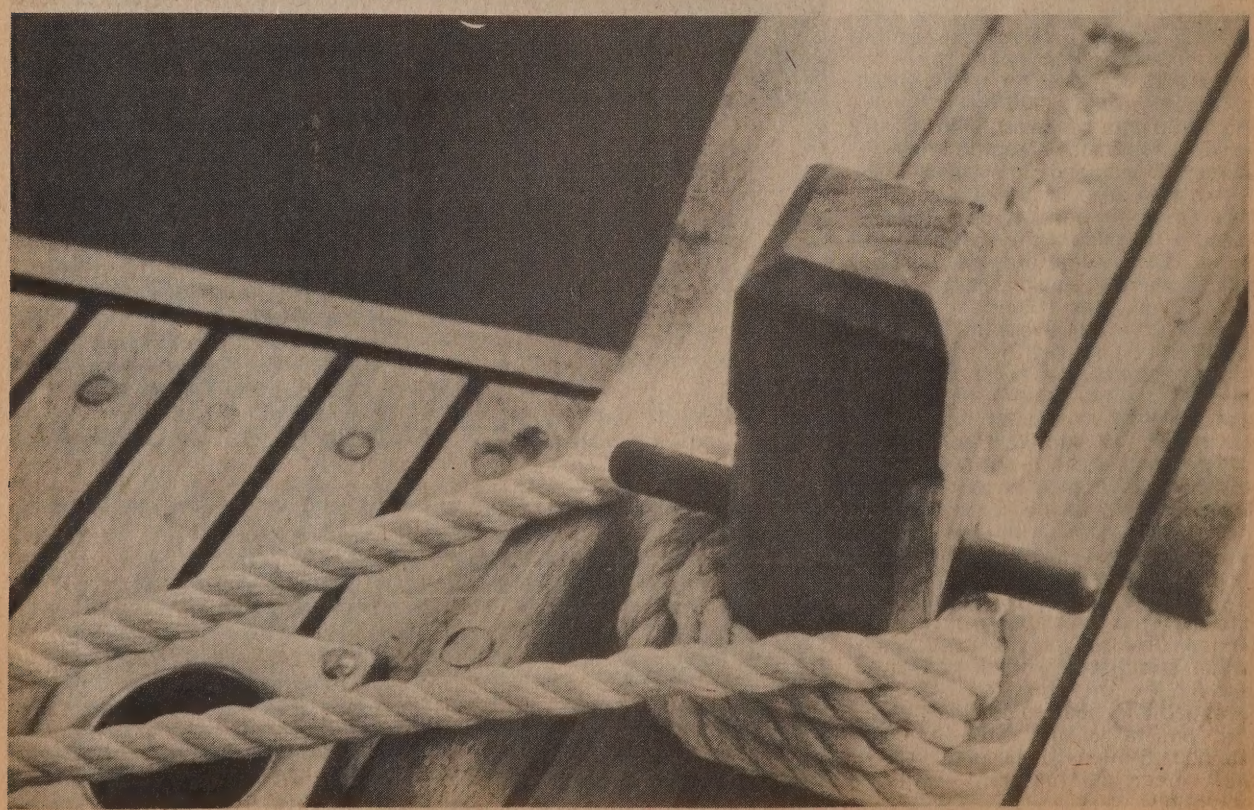
However, tides notwithstanding, let's take a look at rigging a floating dock by way of easing into the subject. With the dock and the boat always (hopefully) floating at the same level we have only the forward and aft and athwart-ship forces to control. The boat is tied close to the dock with just enough slack in the lines to allow the dock and the boat to ride independently as minor waves ripple through the marina. At least they're minor until some **non compos mentis** comes racing up the canal.

The quick and dirty method, providing the dock is considerably longer than the boat, is to simply tie it bow and stern with lines running forward from the bow and aft from the stern. To be reasonably effective, these lines should be at approximately 45 degrees to the edge of the dock. If the angle is much less you'll have to cinch up too tightly for comfort to prevent excessive forward and aft movement.

The worst case for a floating dock is where you want to pull up as far into your bay, formed by finger piers, as you can, the idea being to keep your stern out of the marina's traffic. But you want to be certain that your bow will never play tag with the main dock to which the fingers are attached. A similar case would be where boats are tied bow-to-stern alongside a large floating dock. Either situation calls for spring lines.

These are lines running well aft from the bow and at the same generous angle from the stern, forward. They'll keep the boat nailed to its assigned location at the dock—but will not prevent sideward travel away from the dock; and this can be a problem when two boats share a common bay. With your skiff tied port-side and the sharing boat tied to its starboard beam—and less than two feet between adjacent gunwales—you don't want to be running endurance tests on rubbing strips.

The cure is a pair of breast lines, ropes running directly abeam between dock and boat at both bow and stern. Coupled with the springs, they'll keep any boat well within acceptable limits, and the only



Doubling over the eye splices on bitts and cleats shouldn't be really necessary—but it engenders a warm feeling when home is far away from the dock.

remaining condition to be addressed is rubbing contact between your dock and the boat's side.

The boat's rub rail is useless because it's higher than the dock (at least any Ive seen). The best medicine, although a bit expensive, is a strip of molded rubber made expressly for the purpose and nailed against the edge of the dock. It needn't be the full length of the boat because the bow sections should never contact the dock if the boat is properly tied. The alternative is hanging fenders, and although they'll also serve when docking in alien ports they're generally a pain in the neck. Not-so-incidentally, don't use old fire hose for a rubbing strip. It will abrade the gel coat within a few weeks.

Beware of floating docks bearing posts (bollards) for tie points. Granted they are easy to take a hitch on, particularly when leaning over the gunwales from within the boat—but make just one mistake coming into the slip and you're going to have a bow ache. Bollards are exceptionally adept at knocking out those expensive ventilators in the bows of inboards and I/Os.

Before going on to meet the tides, we might consider the lines we're using, for no matter where they are used, several comments are common to all. Handling ease is as important as strength, and anything less than 3/8 dia. rope is too akin to clothesline. Half-inch is much easier to handle, and will adequately tether any boat up to about 28 feet. Larger craft are better rigged with 5/8 line, if only for aesthetics.

Nylon is the universal cordage for dock lines because of its shock-absorbing stretch factor. Dacron is a bit too stiff, and "poly" fibers are too susceptible to abrasion. Too, these cheaper synthetics soon stiffen to the point where handling is impeded. There's no need for making and unmaking knots once a boat slip is rigged. The ends of the lines that are handled on departure and arrival should have eyes spliced in them. Generally (unless some creep is stealing dock lines every time a slip is empty), the lines are tied to the dock and the eye splices are secured to bitts or cleats on the boat. The eyes should be full enough to permit twisting and taking a double turn around bitts, and to allow coming through the center hole of hollow cleats and spreading to catch born horns.

Chafing gear is another universal requirement, although some arrangements get by without it. However, if the dock lines are capable of rubbing either the dock or the boat when under strain some sort of protection should be incorporated. Canvas wrapped and tied around the line at rub points is one time-honored method. Sections of hose or heavy-duty electrical tubing also serve admirably.

So much for slips unaffected by

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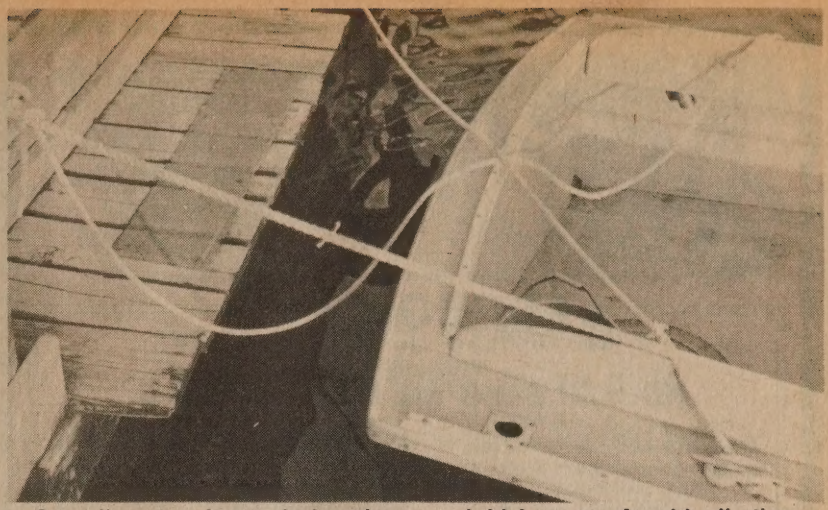
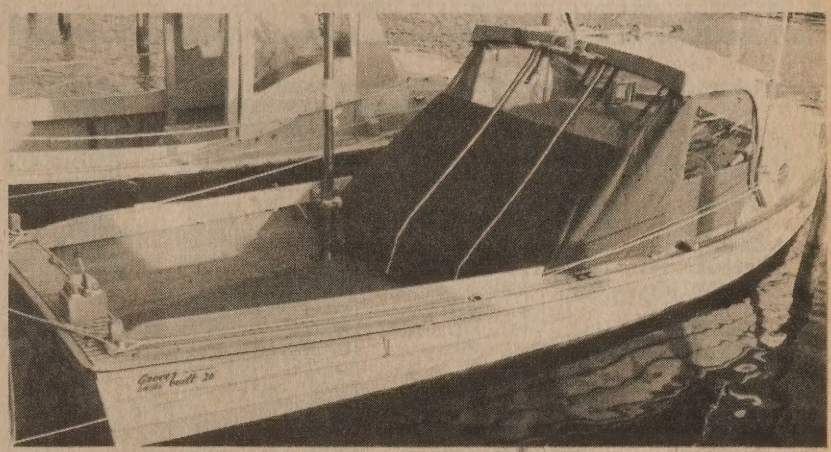
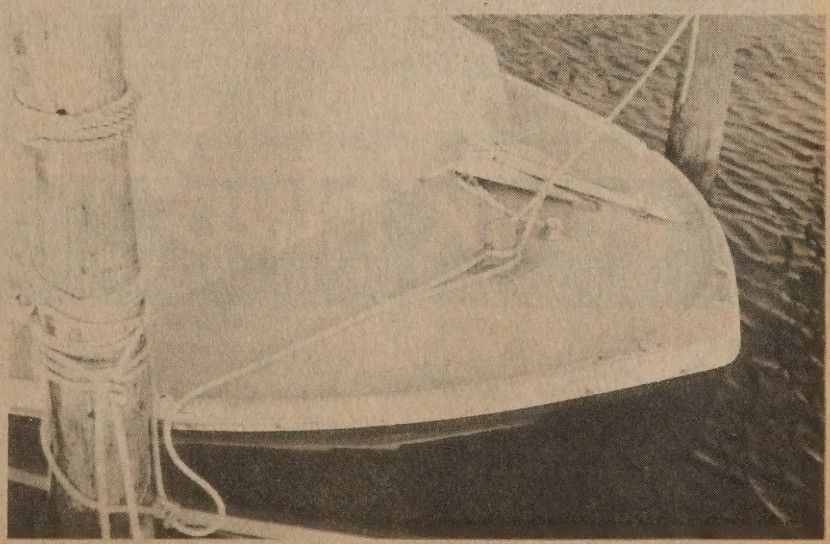


Stern lines are always slack under normal tidal ranges. As with all other lines on non-floating docks, they should come taut only during extreme highs and lows of storm tides. The heavier line leading toward this boat's bow is a guide line used principally to hang the spring lines on when away from the dock.



This illustration shows a guide line running just beneath the boat's logo. Hanging from it, about midway along the cockpit, is a hanger made of copper rod and enmeshed in the line's braid. The spring line running from the piling to the stern is hung in this hanger to facilitate picking it up when returning to the dock.



Bow lines, too, are always slack except at tidal extremes. Bow lines generally have the least scope of all dock lines when laying between pilings.

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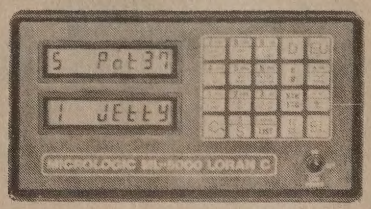

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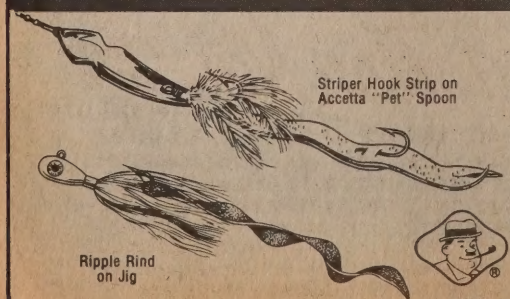

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tides, and the basic definitions we've covered. Now we can tackle the slips that bring skippers out in the wee hours to check their handiwork. The key to handling tidal rise and fall is "arc." The point at which any line is attached to the boat is going to describe a curve about the point on the dock or piling to which it is attached. No, each line is not always going to be taut, maintaining a constant curve, because winds and currents shift the boat around; slacking some lines and tightening others. Still, if you plot all the points the end of each line can reach when it is tight, and through the total tidal range, you'll wind up with an arc.

The arc relates to a triangle because the taut line is the hypotenuse of same, and the base is the waterline while the triangle's side is the dock or piling. As the angle between the waterline and the dock line increases, the base line shortens. As it shortens, it pulls the boat closer to the dock or piling. Too close and rubbing occurs. If the boat is drawn hard against dock structure—and the tide continues to fall, we have a condition known as "hanging." In extreme hanging conditions one of two phenomena occur: either the deck cleats pull out...or the boat hangs on its beam's end, water rushes over the gunwale—and the boat sinks!

The polar condition occurs when the tide continues to rise after the boat is drawn tightly against the dock as the effective length of the dock line is shortened. The strain on the deck cleats or bitts takes an acute downward direction. If something snaps you have a loose boat. If nothing lets loose—you just bought a submarine. But it needn't be all that bad. We do have a few things going in our favor.

The longer the line, the less the horizontal change in scope for any given increment of rise and fall. Stated another way: if a 6 foot line is horizontal at mid-tide its effective length after a 2 foot rise or fall will be 5.66 feet. The boat will be pulled .34 feet horizontally; certainly within acceptable limits of any decent slip. A 4 foot line under the same conditions would pull the boat .54 feet. Still not too bad under most conditions. But a 2 foot line would pull the boat 2 feet, and it would most likely be in trouble.

The factor that made the 6 foot and 4 foot line look healthy was that they were horizontal at mid-tide; an optimum condition but not always obtainable. Consider the case of a dock bollard that's 3 feet above the boat's cleat at mid-tide, and we'll assume the same 6 foot line and 2 foot rise and fall. At mid-tide the line's effective length is only 5.2 feet, still not a drastic change—but after the tide falls 2 feet the effective length is only 3.32 feet. The boat has been pulled 2.68 feet across the slip. Conversely, when the tide rises 2 feet above mid-level the boat can only move .72 feet. This latter case creates an unbalanced situation in which high tide is more lenient than low tide.

So, the longer the line the better, and the nearer it is to the horizontal at mid-tide, the less lateral movement allowed for the boat. Unfortunately, every slip imposes limits on the length of lines. Let's look at a boat moored between pilings with its stern adjacent to a bulkhead.

The situation most fraught with danger is to have the stern start pounding the bulkhead, or worse, having the stern caught under a longitudinal beam or a catwalk. Neither will probably give way before a rising tide fills the cockpit. Fortunately the spring lines from the pilings to the stern of the boat are the longest and can be rigged to prevent the boat from reaching the bulkhead when they are horizontal, which gives them the greatest scope. But if the rise and fall is too much for the allowable length of the spring lines it can be awkward getting aboard at tidal extremes when the lines angle upward or downward, pulling the boat away from the bulkhead.

Stern lines are kept as long as possible by running them from the farthest possible point on the bulkhead to the **opposite** side of the boat. The result is crossed lines that act like a pair of scissors. At tidal extremes they should both just come tight. At mid-tide they will be slack. The trick is to be sure that the slack doesn't let the boat make love to the one in the next slip. It aways ends up in a fight.

Bow lines, running from the pilings to a common, or nearly common, point on the bow of the boat, are necessarily the shortest. The further forward the bow is from the pilings, the better; but this creates shorter lines leading aft. It's a matter of being between a rock and a hard place. Rest assured that in the majority of situations the boat is going to rub the pilings when the wind blows near mid-tide. That's what they make rub rails for, and why pilings are frequently good candidates for strips of that heavy-duty rubber guard.

The worst docking situation in areas boasting broad tidal ranges is laying a boat alongside a fixed dock or bulkhead. Spring lines fore and aft—given sufficient scope—can handle a healthy rise and fall, but breast lines may be practically useless for keeping the boat from wandering away from the dock. Counter-weighted breast lines running over sheaves exert fair control when the wind off the dock is mild, but swiftly lose effectiveness when breezes howl. At least the boat is held **off** the dock under these conditions.

Fenders are a must when laying alongside a fixed dock. If the closest points of contact with the boat are pilings bolted to the bulkhead, fender boards are required. These are a genuine pain for the plank supported by two fenders must be long enough to stay in contact with the piling throughout the fore and aft motion of the boat allowed by the spring lines. I'll buy docking between pilings, any day.

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STATEN ISLAND'S CEMENT BARGE

by John Fritz

Metropolitan area surfmen have a rare opportunity to tangle with teen-size choppers during May in the waters surrounding this deteriorating wreck.

For a Long Island surfcaster, the middle of May usually is a time when all attention is directed to catching school bass or weakfish. The opportunity to tackle with teen-sized bluefish rarely presents itself at this stage of the season. Small blues are in abundance in some of our south shore inlets, but their larger brothers delay their arrival on our shores till the month of June; even that is a short, sporadic run with few fish and almost all taken fishing bottom. Those anglers looking for a change of pace can have a chance to flex their muscles battling monster bluefish with an occasional weakfish thrown in as a bonus. Interested surfmen should be willing to modify their techniques and not be averse to travelling to a different shore.

The west shore of Staten Island's Great Kills Harbor is the place where such fishing is possible—to be more specific, in the waters off the Cement Barge. For those totally unfamiliar with this area, the Cement Barge is a deteriorating wreck grounded on the flats at the foot of Thornycroft Avenue in the Eltingville section of the County of Richmond. Access to the beach is best gained from the foot of Thornycroft Avenue which intersects with Hylan Blvd. In regard to access, either here or anywhere else, let me impart a few words of advice. Respect the local inhabitants' parking areas and leave the place as you found it by not adding litter or the mess associated with the cleaning of fish on the beach. As much as we hate to admit it, sometimes it is the actions of our own kind that leads to the closing of previously accessible areas.

A trio of happy surfmen leave the "Cement Barge" after an inning with big blues.

Once the angler reaches the beach his journey has just begun. Arrival should coincide with the last stages of the ebbing tide, for it is necessary to wade a considerable distance into the water which is only possible at the bottom of the tide. Local anglers, knowledgeable of the area, are able to approach the fishing location when the water is slightly higher from a point on the beach further to the right. From here they judge the water's depth against a series of ancient, wooden pilings. When it is estimated that the tide has dropped sufficiently, they will follow along the ridge of a bar which angles out towards the jetty on the opposite of Great Kills Harbor. Newcomers to the area are better advised to take the more direct route, at least until a better understanding of the bottom formation and tides is gained.

The route seaward should begin from the beach directly opposite the wreck of the Cement Barge. These ruins are obvious, for it is a massive collection of twisted reinforcing rods and concrete. Start walking directly offshore, but stay to the right side of the barge, leaving ample room to avoid any washouts which are frequently encountered around the base of the wreck. After the initial incline, from the high water mark to the first area of basketball-sized rocks, the slope of the bottom becomes negligible. Because the grade is so gradual it is necessary to wade several hundred yards to reach the fishing area. That's right, I said yards. The actual fishing takes place so far offshore that it is often difficult to see what the fishermen are doing from the beach. At any rate, keep walking until the water level reaches about belt high. Of course, if fish are encountered beforehand, it would be foolish to pass them by. Occasionally this is the

case, so once the depth is deemed sufficient to contain fish, it is wise to make a few casts along the way. After fishing awhile, without success, it is possible to work further out towards the left front, a direction which will bring the angler closer to the channel feeding Great Kills Harbor.

The clarity of this water on most occasions would discourage many Long Island surfmen who are accustomed to fishing in waters that receive much less impure discharges. Have no fear, the fish are here, alive and flourishing in this seemingly uninhabitable sea. The fish have little difficulty in detecting their food, but a careless angler could stumble over the rocks or debris which are strewn about the bottom. Most of these hidden objects are encountered close to shore, the bottom further out is comprised of a firm, sandy bottom.

Because the distance from the shore is so great, make sure that you are aware of the correct tide for that date. Once the tide has started to rise it is wise to think about working one's way back towards the beach. Use Sandy Hook as the reference and be aware that strong winds or an offshore storm can effect the normal flow of the tides. Strong winds are undesirable for this method of fishing, although some regulars feel that a moderate southwest wind is beneficial.

Contrary to the methods practiced on Long Island, time of day has little influence on the success of a trip to this area. If the tide is right, then that is the time to go, even if it is under a noonday sun. Maybe it is dependent on the clarity of the water, but for whatever reason, there is little sleep being lost by the anglers I know who fish in this way. This is not to say that fish can't be taken at night. It would produce better results, but with sufficient numbers of fish being caught in the daylight, why bother.

Since the actual fishing location lies such a great distance off the beach, the fisherman should be alert to any nearby boat traffic. An angler standing in the water so far from the beach is probably the last thing on a boatman's mind. This could be especially dangerous during periods of poor visibility, say at night or when encountering a fog. Which brings up another thought: make sure you have your bearings and you are positive of the direction back to the safety of the beach. There is little current here to either hinder one when wading out or to help in determining the correct direction to the beach.

It should be obvious that waders along with a top and a belt are a must for this method of fishing. Because the fish are of considerable size and most have teeth, a gaff and stringer are also on the requirement list. Unlike the manner of fishing so popular later in the season at the Oakwood Bogs where snappers are the bait to be live-lined, one rod is sufficient, for the bait must be snagged, not enticed to strike a tiny lure. Rods measuring eight or nine feet, with ample backbone to snag bunker and then sling the bait seaward once again, are necessary. Meat sticks are not really needed for the bunker are usually small at this time of the year and it is not necessary to cast the rigged bait very far. Fifteen pound test line spooled onto a Penn 704 or 550 would complete an outfit capable of fishing this method without difficulty.

A snagger, with hooks honed to extreme sharpness, is a required item. When wading out look for the telltale splashes which would indicate that bunker are present in sufficient numbers to make snagging worthwhile. After the bunker is secured, transfer is to a previously fashioned rig and cast it back among its friends. The rig or harness used to booby trap the hapless bunker can be a complex rig, featuring two hooks, or simply a treble hook fastened to a wire leader. Whatever rig is preferred, several should be made beforehand, for teen-sized bluefish are known for their ability to break lines and destroy even the most sturdy of rigs.

Nylon coated wire in the 40 lb. test class or single strand stainless steel wire can be used as leader material. If a treble hook is to be used singly, a 4/0 treble is preferred by many bunker dunkers. Favored single hooks are either a 4/0 or 5/0 Siwash which can be rigged alone or in tandem. Stainless steel hooks are the choice of many anglers for they combine light weight with the toughness needed to subdue large game fish. Whichever hook or rig is decided upon, shark hooks will lessen the chance of missing a hook-up when a runoff does take place.

Some anglers prefer to fish an extremely light drag or an open spool, letting the predator make his run before setting the hook. On the other hand, there are those who advocate setting the hook the instant a strike occurs. Fish have been lost with either technique, so I'll leave that decision to you.

There are occasions when the schools of bunker are nowhere to be found. At times such as this or if the method previously described is not to your liking, do not despair; plugs will take fish also. Standard popping plugs, white being favored by many regulars, are most often used at this time. I'm sure a pencil popper would attract a response also, or possibly a Jr. Atom or the Super Strike Swimmer.

Whatever method is preferred, this Staten Island shore has produced quality fish for surfmen at a time in the season when such fish are hard to come by. A trip to the "Barge" might alter one's customary spring routine, but such possibilities are not commonplace. This is just one facet of Staten Island's surf fishing, with a bit of persistence and a little time spent on exploration, it could lead to continued quality fishing from other sections of the Island's shore.

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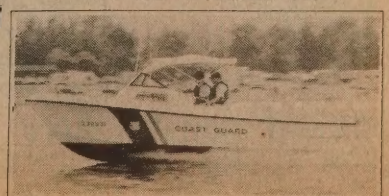

FISHERMAN CATCHES

BY FRED GUARDINEER

THESE FISH DIDN'T BREAK ANY RECORDS BUT WERE POOL WINNERS AND BRAGGIN' SIZE CATCHES LAST SEASON BY OUR READERS AND WE'D LIKE TO GIVE THEM A MENTION AS THEIR BIG FISH GIVE US AN IDEA WHAT IS POSSIBLE OUT THERE FOR YOU AND ME THIS SEASON, IF WE'RE SO LUCKY!

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FLUKE, (3) 11 LBS. BY GENE LAWLESS OFF CANARSIE PIER, GEORGE STOLL AT MONTAUK ON "MARLIN IV" AND WALTER SPECHT IN DEB'S INLET.

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DOUBLE YOUR FUN WITH LAFAYETTES

by Salvatore Agliano

This scrappy little panfish is not only fun to catch, but they are dam near irresistable as baits for larger game.

"They're back!" the old-timer shouted, as he paraded up and down the pier. "Lafayettes are back!" A tiny fish, dangling from his hook, was offered as proof as the old man stopped proudly before each fisherman to display his latest catch.

On that day late in May several years ago I had been blackfishing about a hundred feet away from the old-timer. "Sure they're not porgies?" I asked, peering into his bucket brimming with fish.

"No, m'lad," he replied. "They're lafayettes...spots. Haven't seen one in years, but I know for sure they're lafayettes—not porgies."

The old-timer went back to fishing, and I began to wonder if it were actually lafayettes and not bergalls that had been stealing my bait all morning. Replacing my Virginia hook with a 1/0 Beak baitholder, I decided to find out. No sooner did my bait reach bottom when lafayettes began pecking away. One after another the hungry spots were hooked. I again changed my rig—adding two more hooks. With these additional hooks, any hesitation on my part after the first hit ensured another lafayette's hook-up. And on some occasions, I was landing three at a time. At day's end I, too, had a bucket full of those scrappy little fish I thought to be porgies.

That night it bothered me that I was unable to tell the difference between porgies and lafayettes, so I dusted off several reference books about fish. I thumbed through many pages until I found what I was looking for. Right on top of the page was an illustrated drawing of the lafayette. Below it the text read as follows: "Lafayette. (**Leiostomus xanthurus**) also called spot, Virginia spot. Average size 8 inches; largest on record 3 pounds; food value, good. Brownish-silver color with a head like a Croaker and a spot just behind the gill edge; has light diagonal stripes."

I also learned that these fish, although native to the Mid-Atlantic, at certain times expanded their territorial boundaries, reaching as far south as the Gulf of Mexico and as far north as Cape Cod, Mass. This migration was due to a periodic overpopulation, which was believed to occur every seven years or so.

Well, surely now they were in this migratory cycle, for the bays and inlets of the New York area seemd to be teeming with lafayettes. Filled buckets were becoming an everyday occurrence, as the tasty panfish eagerly accepted any soft bait. I noticed, however, that there had been times when spots in one fishing area changed their feeding habits as if on signal. Blood and sand worms would work well for an hour, then suddenly clam was all the fish would take.

I returned several weeks later and found the fish still feeding regularly. There was no overall change in the action. Cast out and reel them in. But it was at this time when I noticed what appeared to be a small bluefish following my hooked lafayette. I wondered what value this tiny fish could be as bait for larger game.

A little test to break the monotony was in order—not knowing at the time the full impact this casual experiment would have in weeks to come. Searching through my tackle box, I found what was needed: a two hook fluke

(Continued on next page.)

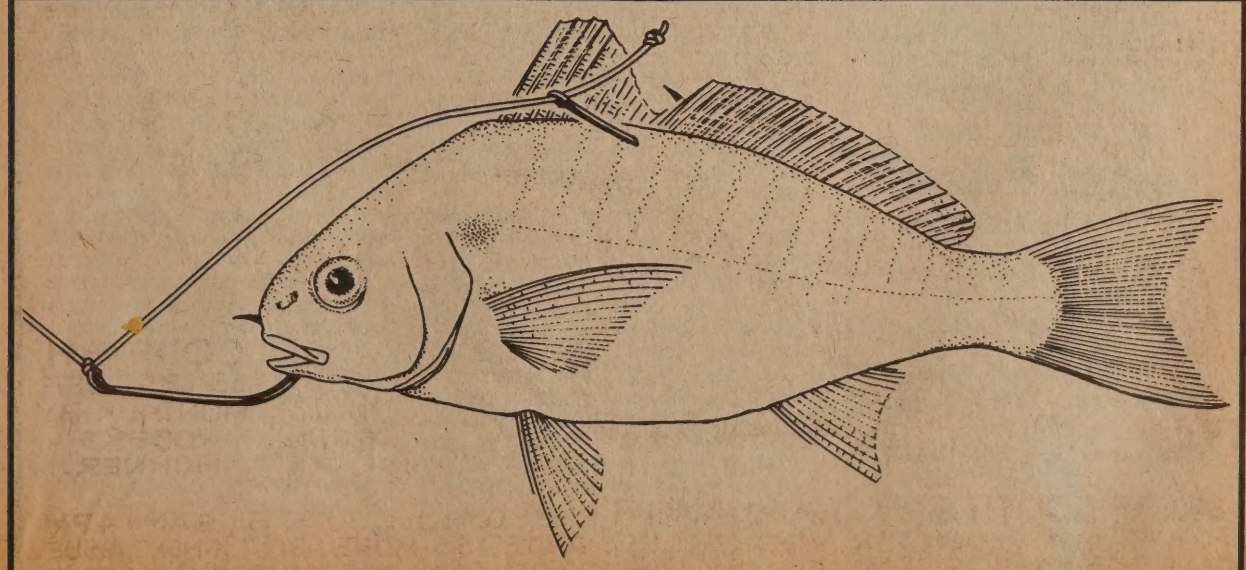

Diagram shows author's method of rigging lafayettes.

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rig. It consisted of two Beak hooks: the smaller 4/0 hook was tied into the leader, and the larger 5/0 moved freely, along about three inches of line behind the first hook. An overhand knot in which the line had been passed through the loop several times prevented the end hook, also called the "stinger," from sliding off the rig. The leader was three feet long and the rig was complete with sinker clip and a barrel swivel to which the main line is tied. A quick adjustment completed its use for the occasion.

I cut the leader just ahead of the sinker clip and tied the rig directly to the end of my line. Selecting the most recently caught lafayette, the rig was baited by pushing the inside hook under and up through the lafayette's mouth; the free moving hook was positioned and penetrated just behind the fish's dorsal fin.

The rig was then cast and about twenty yards of line was released from the reel. I left the reel in free spool with the click on and then tied the rod to the pier. Within moments, the bait was hit. Line rapidly peeled off the reel as the ratchet sounded off. I lifted the rod, slowed down the speed of the spool with my thumb and attempted to set the hook. No good!

Another lively fish was promptly rigged. But this time before I could tie the rod to the pier, something ripped at my offering. This time, the hook was firmly set. My rod tip dipped, straightened, then dipped again. A few minutes later, the five pound blue was within reach. I looked around for someone with a gaff or a net. Nothing. Slowly lowering the rod, I reeled in until the fish and the tip of my rod were only inches apart. I said a short prayer, then lifted, stepped back and the battle was over.

Another lafayette was baited and cast. The next strike caught me off guard for I was still feeding line when it came. After a spirited battle, another five pound blue lay atop the pier.

Rigging up once more, I cast out only a few feet of line. Another strike. I reared back and again a blue was on. This time it was easier. My third and last bluefish of the day was eventually lifted onto the pier. I needed no further proof that lafayettes were most effective when used as bait for medium sized blues.

Time passed, and by mid-summer, the lafayettes had deserted the shore lines and moved to deeper water. I remember well that day two buddies and I were drifting for fluke off Manhattan Beach. My fellow fishermen were Captain Paul Luisi and "Old Man" Eddie. We were using both sand eels and squid strips for bait. Upon checking our rigs, we often found them baitless. Something was certainly seizing the bait, and yet we had not one fluke aboard. Lafayettes? I decided to find out. I rigged an extra rod with small hooks and baited with squid. Immediately, I began to hook lafayettes. Remembering how irresistible the live-lined lafayettes were to the blues at the pier a couple of weeks before, I wondered how fluke would react.

Changing to a tandem-hook rig, I baited a live lafayette in the same manner as I had done at the pier and added a sinker. My fishing buddies were skeptical about what would come of my experimenting, but as soon as I boated the first fluke, a five pounder, they quickly followed suit.

We drifted about half an hour without a hit. My buddies were about to give up and go back to using the squid and sand eels, when suddenly Old Eddie was into a fish. He soon led a flattie just under five pounds to the net. Not a giant, but still better than average. A half-hour passed before the next fluke hit. This time it was Paul's rigged lafayette that was struck, and another near doormat was boated. The time that passed between each hit seemed always to be about a half hour. Apparently the smaller fluke were not interested in the big baits. But as soon as bait passed near one of the larger fluke, it was quickly seized. The fishing was slow and leisurely, but when the action did come, we found it well worth the wait. Twelve fluke were taken that day; every fish was large and again, live-lined lafayettes proved to be a most effective bait.

I soon discovered that lafayettes need not be alive to be accepted. By freezing whole lafayettes, any well stocked freezer becomes an instant source of bait for a day's fishing, especially for teen-sized blues.

I found this out in late summer when I noticed bluefish deserting the deep waters and invading the shallows of Jamaica Bay in pursuit of the abundant lafayette. Trolling for blues in such offshore areas as the Tin Can Grounds, Norton's Point and Ambrose Channel, normally "hotspots" for big bluefish, was producing fewer and fewer fish. Many fishermen abandoned these areas and began to work the local waters.

One day in early September, I removed some frozen lafayettes from the freezer and fished with Captain Paul Luisi and an old friend named Teddy, aboard Paul's boat, the Sailfin. We sailed to the west side of the Marine Parkway Bridge and once there we decided to drift across the channel.

Six rods were rigged with wire leadered 6/0 hooks. Partially thawed lafayettes from my freezer were impaled on the hooks and small clinch sinkers were placed on the lines about a foot above the baited hooks. Line was fed into the water and we each manned two rods: one in hand and the other, a dead stick, was positioned in a nearby rod holder.

In a matter of minutes, the first fish hit with such force it nearly yanked the rod from Paul's grasp. Before this fish was halway up, another struck one of the dead lines. Then my rig was hit. A pair of eight pound blues were boated and my fish was nearing the boat when the two remaining dead

lines were hit. Action was fast and furious with fourteen bluefish taken on that one drift.

The engine was kicked over, and we hurried back across the channel to make the same drift again. This time we only bagged six fish. Once again we made the drift, however, only one fish—a five pounder—was taken. Action then came to a grinding halt. Suddenly Teddy shouted: "Look! Over there! Birds are working the other side of the bridge!"

We hurried over to the east side of the bridge. Again the drift was across the channel, but there was no action until we passed over a shoal about midway between the Brooklyn side of the bay and Rockaway. As we passed over this stretch of high bottom, all three rigs were hit. Fish taken from this side of the bridge were all real slammers. The largest weighed slightly over 14 pounds, and the "runt of the litter" was an even 11 pounds. We had the fish flying when we realized we had only about half a dozen bait fish left. "Cut 'em up!" I said. "Cut 'em up just like you would bunker." Each lafayette yielded about five fair-sized chunks, and this we hoped would give us enough bait to last an hour or so. The action remained hectic, but probably due to the change to smaller bait, only small two and three pound blues came aboard. Needless to say, big blues like lafayettes just fine.

Weakfish, the last of the remaining game fish in our area, were about to be put to the test. Would they or would they not find the lafayette as desirable ad did the blues and fluke? Again, I was determined to find out. There were just Captain Paul Luisi and myself aboard the Sailfin that memorable day. We began by drifting along the western end of Jamaica Bay near Floyd Bennett Air Field. Each rig consisted of a tandem-hook with a three foot leader tied into a three-way swivel about four feet above the sinker. Live lafayettes were rigged and dropped over the side.

The rods were resting in their sockets when the first strikes occurred. One hit, then two. We each grabbed a rod and reared back, attempting to set the hooks—nothing! We hastily rebaited and dropped the rigs to the bottom. Again the bait was hit. We struck back and brought up only freshly wounded lafayettes. This continued for about twenty minutes. We knew we were doing something wrong. But what?

Again, we rebaited and dropped our rigs to the muddy bottom. However, this time we made a drastic adjustment to each of the Penn reels' star drags. With drags set wide open we awaited the results.

Both rigs were again struck, but this time we allowed the fish to run. No attempt was made to touch either the rods or the reels. With nerves on edge, we watched line peel off the reels to the point where the metal spools were beginning to show. Finally, the runs ceased. The lines lay limp atop the water. Paul and I each grabbed a rod and cautiously reeled in the slack before setting the hook. The strength and stamina of these fish was incredible. Each time we brought them to within reach, they summoned up new energies and sounded, taking yards of line. Eventually they succumbed to the pressure of our conventional outfits and we were able to work them alongside.

We were amazed by their size as these fish appeared too big for the net. The gaff was broken out and two huge weaks soon graced the deck. With two weaks aboard, we rerigged and lowered out baits. Again, we were hit but now we knew that when using large baits such as lafayettes, it was imperative that the weaks be allowed ample time to swallow it. And so seven weakfish from 10 to 16 pounds were brought to gaff that day. And once again lafayettes proved to be the superior bait, just as they had been for blues and fluke.

Soon after, late fall was upon us. The lafayettes were gone and most anglers returned to the business of flounder and blackfish. But every spring since that fateful year, I fervently pray for the return of the spots to our area for another—YEAR OF THE LAFAYETTE!

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East End REPORT

with Bob Lee

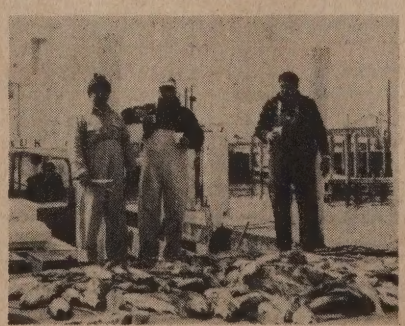
The flounder fishing is still holding up in the bays, creeks and inlets. These tasty flatfish are being overshadowed by large concentrations of weakfish and mackerel. Porgies have showed earlier than expected, along with fluke, so winter flounder will take a back seat in the weeks to come. Codfish are still around but fishermen have to travel to find them. Pollack made a strong showing this week. Scattered schools of bluefish have been reported also. So the East End fishing scene is really picking up and should only improve from now on.

MONTAUK

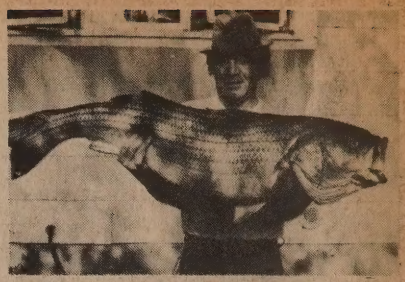
Captain Paul Forsberg of the **Viking Fleet** reports good codfishing at Block Island. The fishing at S.W. Ledge has been spotty but the cod are still around. Block Island action on the other hand is excellent with many of the cod running to 45 lbs. The pool fish is always in the 60 lb. plus class. The Viking pool is running to $900 and has only two weeks to go, so if any fishermen want to take advantage of this, hurry on out.

Captain Bud Dorman of the six man limit open boat **Waxed** reports excellent jumbo flounder fishing both locally and at Gardiner's Island. Except for Sunday, flounder high hooks have averaged each day between 23 and 31 regardless of the weather. Sizes average between 1½ to 3¾ lbs. Although not in abundance porgies and sea bass are being caught. Bud predicts and early start for porgies this year.

Captain Fred Bird, skipper of the open boat **Flying Cloud** reports excellent flounder action at Bostwick Pt. off of Gardiner's Island. Not only is the fishing good, but the fish that are taken are nice and fat. On Saturday the Building Monitoring Systems of Greenport loaded up with flounder at Bostwick Pt. and Petty's Bight. Captain Bird said the porgies have started.



Ted Matte, John Manceri and Manny Dirocles loaded over 125 cod into the cockpit of the charter boat "Montauk" during a recent trip. Photo courtesy of Montauk Marine Basin.



Cleve Giorgi with his first 50 lb. striper. It was taken last season at Montauk aboard Capt. Bob Rocchetta's charter boat, "Rainbow."

Captain Phil Lewis of the charter boat **Adios** reports fishing downriggers with umbrella rigs for big pollack last week was productive. Diamond jigs only produced a few fish by comparison. An example is Bob Hall's party of Hempstead with 40 pollack up to 35 lbs. on downriggers. Over the weekend pollack fishing slowed down due to the large traffic of boats out there and the fish bit later in the day.

Captain Mike of the charter boat **Montauk** reports good pollack action south of the Island on downriggers and diamond jigs. Flounder fishing was super this week off of Gardiner's Island. Frank Depolar of Brooklyn caught 114 flounder to 3½ lbs. Some porgies and blackfish were mixed in also. Mackerel are all over from the CIA and south of the Island. The Bumble Bee had the first weakfish off Montauk Point.

Captain Ron Grandinetti, skipper of the charter boat **Julie III** reports good flounder fishing off of Rocky Point and Gardiner's Island. The Sequa Fishing Club, headed by Joe Koest caught 70 flounder in the 1 to 3 lb. class. The bigger fish can be found at Gardiner's Island.

Captain Bill Ricca, skipper of the **Alyssa Ann** reports that on Saturday the ALiese brothers along with Sam Russo and Pete Callandra caught 51 flounder to 3½ lbs. off Rocky Point and Gardiner's Island. A few big porgies and sea bass were mixed in.

SOUTH FORK

Captain Artie Lach, skipper of the **Sag Harbor** based open boat **Wilhelric** reports excellent flounder action at Orient and off of Gardiner's Island. The bigger flounder can be found at Gardiner's Island. Average catches are 25 to 40 a man, and the pool fish is in the 3 lb. plus class. Good weakfishing at the Middle Grounds. Satur-

High Tide Tables

How to use tide tables: To compute the high tide for the area you wish to fish, simply find the closest area on the conversion table. Add or subtract the hours and minutes as indicated from that area station above. Example: Shinnecock Inlet . . . −0 50 is listed under "On SANDY HOOK." −0 50 means you subtract 50 minutes from the times given for the SANDY HOOK STATION for the day you are going fishing. This is the approximate time for the high tide in the area. For low tide, add 6½ hours to this figure.

DAY	SANDY HOOK AM	SANDY HOOK PM	BREAKWATER HARBOR AM	BREAKWATER HARBOR PM	NEW YORK AM	NEW YORK PM	NEW LONDON AM	NEW LONDON PM	WILLETS POINT AM	WILLETS POINT PM	BRIDGEPORT AM	BRIDGEPORT PM	NEWPORT AM	NEWPORT PM	DATE
THURS.	8:20	8:40	9:10	9:30	9:00	9:15	10:00	10:10	12:00	12:30	11:55	—	8:10	8:30	5/26
FRI.	9:00	9:15	9:55	10:10	9:45	10:00	10:40	10:50	12:40	1:15	12:05	12:40	8:55	9:15	5/27
SAT.	9:40	9:55	10:35	10:50	10:30	10:40	11:25	11:30	1:15	1:50	12:45	1:20	9:35	9:55	5/28
SUN.	10:20	10:35	11:20	11:30	11:15	11:20	—	12:05	1:45	2:25	1:30	2:00	10:20	10:35	5/29
MON.	11:05	11:20	—	12:00	—	12:05	12:10	12:55	2:10	2:55	2:10	2:40	11:05	11:20	5/30
TUES.	11:50	—	12:15	12:50	12:05	12:50	12:55	1:45	2:40	3:25	2:50	3:25	11:55	—	5/31
WED.	12:00	12:35	1:00	1:40	12:50	1:40	1:45	2:35	3:15	4:00	3:35	4:10	12:10	12:40	6/1
THURS.	12:50	1:25	1:50	2:30	1:35	2:25	2:35	3:35	4:00	4:45	4:20	5:00	1:00	1:35	6/2

On Sandy Hook

STATEN ISLAND	+0 27
ATLANTIC HIGHLANDS	−0 01
Red Bank, Navesink River	+1 48
Long Branch	−0 34
SHARK RIVER INLET	−0 18
Shark River Basin	+0 27
MANASQUAN INLET	−0 12
Seaside Park	−0 33
Mantoloking bridge	+5 34
TOMS RIVER	+4 37
Waretown	+2 33
BARNEGAT LIGHT	−0 20
Manahawkin Bridge	+2 33
Beach Haven	+1 47
LITTLE EGG INLET	−0 01
Seven Islands	+0 12
Graveling Point	+1 05
Mullica River	+1 55
Grassy Bay	+1 08
ABSECON INLET	+0 14
Atlantic City Pier	−0 26
Great Egg Harbor Inlet	+0 12
GREAT EGG HARBOR	+0 44
CORSON INLET	+0 09
TOWNSENDS INLET	+0 06
HEREFORD INLET	+0 02
Grassy Sound Bridge	+0 45
Cape May Harbor	−0 02
Rehobeth Beach	−0 07
INDIAN RIVER INLET	+0 41
SHINNECOCK INLET	−0 50
Shinnecock Bay	+1 25
East Quogue	+2 45
Shinnecock Canal	+1 18
Indian Reservation	+3 05
MORICHES INLET	−0 56
Smith's Point	+3 28
Hart's Cove	+1 30
Pontunk Point	+3 35
Mastic Beach	+3 28
FIRE ISLAND INLET	−0 38
Democrat Point	−0 38
Coast Guard Station	−0 19
Fire Island Light	+0 47
GREAT SOUTH BAY	
Sayville (Brown Creek)	+3 39
Heckscher State Park	+3 20
Bay Shore	+2 23
Babylon	+2 12
Amityville	+2 21
JONES INLET	−0 19
Zachs Bay	+1 25
Seaford Harbor	+2 05
Freeport Creek	+0 34
E. ROCKAWAY INLET	−0 06
Long Beach Bridge	+0 19
ROCKAWAY INLET	0 00
Beach Channel Bridge	+0 38
J.F.K. Airport	+0 26

On Bridgeport

Lloyd Point	+0 08
Cold Spring Harbor	+0 08
Bayville Bridge	+0 13
Eatons Neck Point	+0 03
Northport Bay	+0 03
Norwalk Islands	+0 10
Smithtown Bay	+0 08
Cranes Neck Point	+0 05
Port Jefferson Hbr. entrance	+0 03
New Haven Harbor	+0 08
Mount Sinai Harbor	+0 05
Herod Point	−0 07
Mattituck Inlet	+0 05
Horton Point	−0 20
Truman Beach	−0 42
Falkner Island	−0 13
Sachem Head	−0 10
Branford Harbor	−0 07
New Haven Harbor entrance	−0 08
Milford Harbor	−0 07
Stratford, Housatonic River	+0 27
Shelton, Housatonic River	+1 36
Black Rock Harbor entrance	−0 03
Saugatuck River entrance	−0 01
South Norwalk	+0 10
Greens Ledge	−0 01
Stamford	+0 04
Cos Cob Harbor	+0 06
Greenwich	+0 02

On New London

Orient	+0 36
Little Gull Is. (Race)	+0 12
Greenport	+1 04
Southold	+1 43
New Suffolk	+2 26
South Jamesport	+2 32
Shinnecock Canal	+2 33
Noyack Bay	+2 05
Sag Harbor	+0 59
Three Mi. Hbr., Gardiners Bay	+0 21
Promised Land, Napeague Bay	−0 14
Montauk Inlet	−0 25
Montauk Point, north side	−1 13
Niantic	+1 20
Stonington, Fishers Is. Sound	−0 33
Noank, Mystic River ent.	−0 23
THAMES RIVER	
Smith Cove entrance	−0 01
Norwich	+0 12
CONNECTICUT RIVER	
Saybrook Jetty	+1 10
Lyme, highway bridge	+1 24
Essex	+1 38
East Haddam	+2 41
Higganum Creek	+2 54

On Willets Point

Little Neck Bay	−0 10
Execution Light	0 06
Manhasset Bay	−0 01
Hempstead Harbor	−0 11
City Island	−0 03
Rye Beach	−0 28
Port Chester	−0 09
Mamaroneck	−0 08
New Rochelle	−0 24
Davids Island	−0 02

On Breakwater Harbor

CAPE MAY POINT	−0 10
Miami Beach	+0 17
East Pt., Maurice River Cove	+0 53
Egg Island Point	+0 33
Cape Henlopen	−0 05
ROOSEVELT INLET	+0 09
Mispillion River entrance	+0 33

On New York

Jersey City	+0 07
George Washington Bridge	+0 46
Spuyten Duyvil, W/RR bridge	+0 58
Ossining	+1 53
Peekskill	+2 24
West Point	+3 16
Newburgh	+3 42

On Newport

Sakonnet	−1 10
Tiverton (between bridges)	+0 21
Beavertail Point	−0 02
Prudence Is., Sandy Point	+1 10
Bristol	+1 10
Warren	+0 21
Nayatt Point	+0 12
Pawtucket, Seekonk River	+0 21
East Greenwich	+0 16
Wickford	+0 12
Narragansett Pier	−0 08
Point Judith Hbr. of Refuge	−0 07
BLOCK ISLAND	
Great Salt Pond	+0 05
Block Island (Old Harbor)	−0 14
Watch Hill Point	+0 44

Sunrise/Sunset

DAY / DATE:	RISE:	SET:
THU. 5/26	5:31	8:24
FRI. 5/27	5:30	8:25
SAT. 5/28	5:30	8:26
SUN. 5/29	5:29	8:26
MON. 5/30	5:29	8:27
TUE. 5/31	5:28	8:28
WED. 6/1	5:28	8:29

Moonrise/Moonset

DAY / DATE:	RISE:	SET:
THU. 5/26	8:19PM	5:30AM
FRI. 5/27	9:21PM	6:06AM
SAT. 5/28	10:19PM	6:47AM
SUN. 5/29	11:11PM	7:34AM
MON. 5/30	11:56PM	8:26AM
TUE. 5/31	—	9:22AM
WED. 6/1	12:34AM	10:20AM

Moon Phases

NEW	1st Qtr.	FULL	Last Qtr.
6/11	6/17	6/25	6/3

The Original Knight SOLUNAR TABLES

The schedule of solunar periods below will help plan your day so that you will be fishing good areas during the time when the fish should be most active. The tables are not a guarantee you will catch fish, however.

The major periods begin at the time shown and last for 1½ to 2 hours thereafter, and are in the bold typeface. The minor periods are shorter in duration and the lighter typeface.

	AM		PM	
	Minor	Major	Minor	Major
Thurs.	5:10	11:15	5:25	11:40
Fri.	5:55	—	6:20	12:10
Sat.	6:50	12:35	7:20	1:05
Sun.	7:40	1:30	8:10	1:55
Mon.	8:35	2:25	9:05	2:50
Tues.	9:30	3:20	10:00	3:45
Wed.	10:25	4:15	11:40	4:35
Thurs.	11:10	5:00	—	5:25

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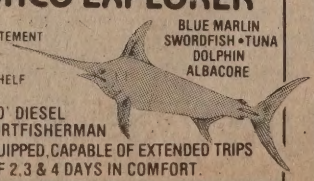

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day night was the best weakfishing of the season. Pete Dileilla of Plainedge and Ken Bedrossia of Astoria had 10 weakfish between them. Pete's fish was the largest with a 14.12. Pete is a member of the Eastern Anglers Fishing Club and his fish broke the club record. The Middle Grounds hold an incredible amount of mackerel and porgies are starting to hit also. Captain Lach said if you want to catch weakfish now is the time to do it. The **Wilhelric** is now sailing on Sunday night also for weakfish. See The Fisherman ad for details. The total catch of weaks on Saturday night was 40 for 12 fishermen aboard said Artie.

Chris Salb of **Bayview Marine Fishing Station** in **Sag Harbor** reports the flounder action still holding up at Cedar Pt. and Northwest Creek. The weakfish have started in Noyac Bay on the west side of the ferry slip. There has been some good action at Jessup's also. Two of Bayview's customers came back to the dock with 5 weaks all over 10 lbs. Jeff O'Connell of Water Mill drifting squid for weaks at Jessup's landed a striped bass of 17 lbs.

In **Noyac**, Barbara of **Noyac Marina** reports that the weakfish have started at buoy 17. These fish are not feeding as they should but the ones that are caught are nice size. Buoy 17 has some fluke action also, along with sea bass and porgies. Small blues in the 1 to 3 lb. range showed up this weekend also. Mackerel are roaming the area also.

In **Southampton**, Thom Speck of **Speck's Bait and Tackle** reports the weakfish action is picking up everyday. The leader in Speck's annual Weakfish Contest is Gary Nelsen of St. James with a 14.6 fish. Thom said the South Race has some good weakfishing, along with blackfish and some porgies also. Tom Theuret caught 9 weaks to 13½ lbs. at this

Dave and Sandy with 14 bass taken on Ava jigs aboard the Montauk charter boat "Vivienne" last fall.

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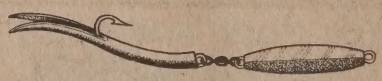

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area on Saturday. The flounder fishing is holding very well also. Walter Bohnenberger and Walter Nickelsen caught 53 flatties on Saturday and 56 on Sunday, off Gardiner's Island. The Basket area in Shinnecock Bay has a good population of flounder also.

Captain Ken Malone, skipper of the **Jenny Rose** based on the **Shinnecock Canal** reports fishing has improved in Peconic Bay, with catches of mackerel, jumbo porgies, blackfish and weakfish. During the week Capt. Ken caught a 5 lb. blackfish and a 12 lb. weakfish. Saturday, the pool winner was a 6 lb. blackfish caught by Arty Klaus of New Hyde Park. Saturday night the Moriches Anglers Fishing Club braved rain and heavy fog to fish in the Peconics at Cows Neck. The pool winner was an 11.12 weak, caught by Paul Markland of Selden.

In **Hampton Bays** Charlie of **Corrs Marina** reports the flounder fishing is still holding up at the Basket area in Shinnecock Bay. Fred Mulcay and Frank Zizzo of Brooklyn fishing the Basket on Saturday, had 90 flounder and some blowfish. The flounder took worm and mussel. Bill Schery of Mastic caught 40 flounder in only 1½ hrs at the Basket. Some fluke are being caught in Shinnecock Canal said Charlie.

South Shore REPORT
with Fred Golofaro

Flatfish continue to dominate the south shore scen and while Moriches Bay activity continues to revolve around the winter variety, a large body of fluke moved through Fire Island Inlet providing some super fishing on Wednesday and Thursday and good fishing through the weekend. Small blues swarmed into Great South Bay last last week, taking many boatmen by surprise and providing hungry weakfish fans with some unexpected action.

MORICHES BAY & INLET

Jim Gleason and Tom Dodson proved that flounder remain the big ticet item in this area by taking 74 blackbacks on Saturday. They worked NE of 42 on the ebb and Haven's Pont on the flood. On Sunday, Dave Roys and his family counted over 50 flatties for their efforts N of buoy 39. Both parties did their fishing out of Jim DeVita's **Skidmore's Fishing Station** n **East Moriches**.

Catches of floundre out of **Silly Lilly**

Fishing Station range anywhere from 40 to 120 fish per boat according to Gary Grunseich. A number of blowfish are mixed in with the flatties. Gary suggested N of buoys 41 & 42 on the flood and buoys 33-38 on the ebb. Rich Weinert and Bill Toth topped all other boats this weekend with their catch of 130 flounder.

Aboard the **Moriches** open boat **Capt. Leo D**, Capt. Chip Contegni spoke of very good flounder fishing between buoys 27 and 29 on incoming water. Still a decent number of 1-2 pound flatties being taken. During slack water, a few blacks between 1 and 3 pounds at the inlet. Ken Dinkler took 42 flatties on Wednesday for hi-hook honors while on Sunday Tom of Mastic Beach took 27 fish on the ½ day afternoon trip.

GREAT SOUTH BAY/ FIRE ISLAND INLET

Lots of blues and a real good showing of fluke from the Inlet back to Ocean Beach according to Paul Graniello of **J & J Tackle** in **Patchogue**. Weakfishing has been picky but those that are taken range mostly from 8 to 11 pounds. On Thursday, a trio of regulars, George, John and Willie, worked the Ocean Beach grounds to the tune of 2 weakfish, 6 bluefish and 16 keeper fluke. Bill White and Clay Hardman imported half a dozen weaks from Peconic. Their largest was 9.6 pounds. While flounder have vacated local docks there have been a fair number of blue claw crabs taken. On the freshwater side, Steve Musso, Jr. clicked with a 2½ pound rainbow taken in the Connetquot on Wednesday.

From **South Bay Fishing Station** in **West Sayville**, Vinny spoke of a load of small blues in the bay since late last week and a good showing of fluke from the R.M. Bridge to Ocean Beach. Weakfishing has been poor with anglers lucky to take 1 or 2 fish per trip, however, those taken have been real tiderunners in the 8 to 12 pound range. Fluke and weakfishing anglers have been taking a few nice sea bass while seeking out the more glamorous species. Ed M. fishing with Jim Horn took a 5 pound, 9 ounce sea bass on 6 pound test at Ocean Beach. The fish may possibly be a contender for the six pound class record category.

Al Colban, speaking from **J & R Sports Center** in **Oakdale**, told of a few weaks and lots of blues taken this past week and weekend at buoys 8, 10, 12 and 13. Blues range 2-3 pounds while most of the weaks are tiderunners of 8 to 12 pounds. Fluke fishing opened up this past week in the vicinity of the R.M. Bridge, State Channel, West Channel, Kismet and the Lighthouse.

Joe Steiner fishing aboard the Serena II on Sunday clicked with a 14.9 pound tiderunner at Ocean Beach. Joe weighed the huge weak at **Peppy's Bait and Tackle** in **East Islip**. Ireene Cioffi who weighed Joe's fish also looked over another impressive weak. Louis Bontempo of C.I. nailed a 13.4 pound weak on Friday. This fish is the current leader in the shop's weakfish contest. Joe Steiner was not entered prior to catching his fish. Ireene also asked that we remind fluke fans that the shop will be stocking live killies as of this Friday.

Carl Miller of **Smokey's Bait and Tackle** in **Bay Shore** verified Joe Steiner's 14.9 pound tiderunner taken at Ocean Beach and added that while this fish is huge by any standards it is typical of this spring's fishing which has seen just a few fish being taken but all have been quality fish. Joe is more enthused about the 5.2 pound sea bass taken at Ocean Beach by Mike Letiza on Sunday. He added that a number of lesser sea bass as well as blowfish are being taken by boatmen drifting for fluke and weakfish on the Ocean Beach grounds. Speaking of fluke, a large body of the summer flatties moved through the inlet the middle of last week and has since been providing good fishing in a number of areas but especially in that stretch from the Inlet back to Ocean Beach. Carl figured that most days sees 60% of the fish taken being keepers. Also moving into the bay late last week were hoards of small bluefish. Most were in the 1-4 pound range and were being taken on cast tins and small diamond jigs. Some surprisingly big blackfish taken this past week at Kismet and near the WR buoy.

Capt. Neil Delanoy of the **Bay Shore** open boat **Casey Lee** spent the week working over the newly arrived fluke. He has been concentrating his efforts between West Channel, Kismet and the Lighthouse. Larger fish prevailed during the week but the keeper ratio remained above 50% through the weekend.

Captree boatmen, already blessed with good flounder fishing along South Beach and the Sore Thumb were provided with another golden opportunity this past week thanks to the newly arrived body of fluke which settled into the bay during the middle of last week. Such was the fishing that most skippers were planned on mixing up fluke and flounder for another week or so have switched over to fluke only.

Capt. Dan Juettner of the open boat **Capt. Dan** spoke of very good fluking on Thursday and Friday with decent results on the weekend when most fares still managed 7-10 keepers apiece. As evidence of Thursday's fishing, Millie and Rick Birmingham counted 36 keepers between them. Dan has been concentrating his efforts between the Bridge and the Lighthouse.

The **Jib VI** skippered by Capt. Carl Passero has switched to a full time

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Joe Winowiecki with 50 flounder he boated off of "Haven's Point" in Moriches Bay on May 6th. Joe fished out of Skidmore's Fishing Station in East Moriches.

fluke schedule as a result of this past week's action. He will be sailing two trips daily at 8AM at 1PM. He described the fishing of mid week as super and said that while action on the weekend paled in comparison, the fishing was still worthwhile with half day trips producing on the average of 5 to 8 keepers per man. On Thursday, Pete Young had 13 of the summer flatties including the pool fish for the day.

Capt. Rod Westerlind of the open boat **Capt. Rod** was ecstatic about the fantastic start to the fluke season. On his first full day attempt at the flatties on Wednesday, the Skipper called the fishing an absolute slaughter with 500-600 keepers brought aboard. While this hot fishing has tempered a bit the fishing has still been good by normal standards. Rod has been working primarily on the bridge area and back to Kismet but added that the fish are rapidly spreading through the bay and fish are also taken in West Channel and at Ocean Beach. Rod figures 6 out of 10 of the fish have been keepers in recent days.

Capt. Charlie Kennedy of the open boat **Capt. Joseph II** echoed the same sentiments of his peers - that being very good fluking all week long and fair to good fishing on the weekend. Charlie has been spending most of his time between the Bridge and the Inlet and noted that both spearing and sandeels have been very effective baits. On the evening weakfish runs catches have ranged between 5 and 10 weaks per trip at Ocean Beach and at West Channel but good numbers of 2-3 pound blues have been keeping fares plenty busy between tiderunners.

Capt. Gordon Roman of the **Captree Queen**, called Wednesday and Thursdays fluking super and labelled the remainder of the week and weekend fair to good. While he has been working primarily west of the R.M. Bridge there has been a good showing of fish to the east as far as Ocean Beach and also in the State Channel. His afternoon weakfish runs have been providing some signs of encouragement in recent nights. His best trip of late saw 10 weaks in the 8-12 pound range taken. Lots of bluefish are picking up any slack left b the weaks as Thursday, Friday and Saturday's trips each saw 100-150 blues in the 1-4 pound range taken. This fishing has been centered primarily between Kismet, Ocean Beach and West Channel.

The all new **Capt. Scotty III** has had its gleaming decks graced with numerous fluke since joining the fluke run on Wednesday. Capt. George Tweedy said that while the fishing fell off on Sunday afternoon it had been very good throughout the week. Most trips saw fares average 8-10 keepers apiece with lots of throwbacks mixed in. He has been fishing between the Bridge and the Inlet and thought that sand eel and fluke belly combos were most effective in the bait department. The skipper also noted a trend of

better action during the Ebb and the first part of the flood. Each trip sees a half dozen or so small blues taken on fluke rigs.

Another Captree open boat that cashed in on the excellent start to the fluke season was Capt. Richie Leitch's **Capt. Leitch**. The skipper spoke of excellent results during the week and good fishing on the weekend. He has been working between the Lighthouse and the Inlet and taking fish on both tides using sand eels, spearing and fluke belly. Hi-hook on Wednesday's initial full day fluke trip was JerryBarber with 22 flatties.

Capt. Bill Russo of the **Captree** charter boat **Prime Time** found a mess of fluke for the Pole Cats Fishing Club on Saturday. Warren Hagstrand won the pool with a 3½ pounder. Fishing was done down at the Inlet.

Capt. Bob Patafio of the **Yankee III** said that while fluke have been getting the big play due to popular demand flounder fishing currently remains very good at the Sore Thumb Pocket and along South Beach with bigger fish concentrated at the Thumb. He too heralded the fast start to the fluke season and said that he has been working around the R.M. Bridge and most days finding a 50-50 keeper ratio.

One very fine fluke was checked in at the **Captree Bait Station** on Saturday. The 5½ pounder was taken by Bill Webster. Bobby Sprenger of the Station also reminded that there have been some very good fluke scores by casters working the bar at the North end of the R.M. Bridge as well as a few fish being taken off of Fisherman's Wharf.

The **Babylon** open boat **Luci III** continues to work on flounder in the State Channel between Babylon and Lindenhurst. According to Capt. Jack Stoddard, the action remains good with plenty of blowfish mixed in. Thursday's trip saw Joe Lang take home 27 keepers.

By far this season's largest fluke to come to our attention was taken on Sunday in West Channel by Bruce Romanitch aboard the private boat Mushroom. Bruce had a 9½ pound doormat gobble a sandworm meant for a weakfish. He checked the big flattie in at **Augie's Bait and Tackle** in **Babylon**. Mickey Chiarenza of Augie's who relayed word of Bruce's catch, also passed along the results of the Babylon Tuna Club's weekend weakfish contest. While only five fish were entered, all were impressive ranging from a low of 8.14 pounds up to Bob Jessen's winning 12.1 pound tiderunner. Mickey summed up his report by telling of lots of blues in the bay and inlet as of last Thursday and echoed the reports of others about the fast start to the fluke season. He also asks that we remind fluke anglers that the existing limit for the flatties is 14".

Mike Andreani at **Lindenhurst Bait and Tackle** said that flounder fishing remains good at the Sore Thumb for those who haven't had their fill of the

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blackbacks. He knew of a number of good fluke catches made by private boatmen working between the Bridge and the Inlet this past week as well as a few big weaks down at buoys 12 and 13 on sandworms and jelly worms. Mike asked that customers looking for flats of sandworms for their weakfishing, please try to call a day or two in advance if possible to insure reserving your worms.

The word from **Combs Bait and Tackle** in **Amityville** was that a good showing of fluke locally at Four Corners, The Copiague Hole, Amity Cut and Fort Neck Point the best fluking however took place in Fire Island Inlet this past week. The inlet was also well supplied with small bue blues which were taken by both casters and trollers in large numbers. Weakfishing has been picky but a few have been taken on sandworms at Unqua Point and Fort Neck Point on the flood. A couple of boats have taken some fish while chumming with shrimp. Blackfishing remains very good at the bridges on green crabs with a number of large blacks being taken.

West End REPORT

with Stu Miller

The fishing is really jumping now in this area with mixed catches of flounder, fluke, blackfish, seabass, bluefish and a few weaks. Now it seems to be a matter of just what species you want for dinner and it's pretty much available. With settled weather, these catches could really become super.

WEST END BAYS/ JONE'S INLET

Beginning with the **Seaford** area we hear from Captain Brian of the **Chinco II** that his fares did well on flounder towards the end of the week with sizes of fish increasing dramatically, 90 percent being over 1¼ lbs. Sunday's afternoon high hook was 21 flatties and all fares caught in the teens. Worms are starting to produce better than mussels and the boat is working the main channels such as Sloop and the water going under the 3rd Wantagh bridge; also the deeps of Haunts Creek. The boat will soon be swinging to fluke, so be advised.

Mixed bags were good during the week said John of **Pop's Fishing Station** with Saturday and Sunday okay as well for fluke, flounder, tommy cod, blowfish, sea bass and

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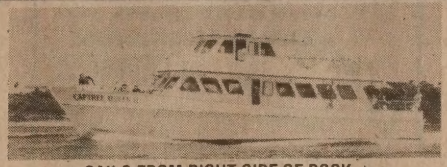

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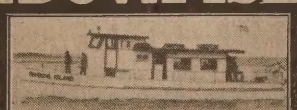

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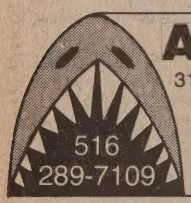

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blackfish. The VFW branch from Huntington known as the Sinker Bouncers had M. Neumann take the club award with a 2½ lb. flounder during the week. On Wednesday three friends, Little Al of New Rochelle, Little Al of the Bronx and Pete Delmperio had 70 flatties between them, all good keepers. A 3¼ lb. flounder was hoisted by John "Duck Boat" Stoehr at Squaw Island. Catches are being made on both tides with the changes best. Hotspots are Four Corners and the waters east of the last Wantagh bridge.

The word from **Capt. Eddie's Fishing Station** is that Fred Beck, son and grandson totalled 72 flounder and blowfish plus 3 weakfish in the 16 to 17 inch range plus two blackfish working Massapequa Cove just east of the grass catcher. This was all on flounder rigs using worm bait and corn chum. The weekend saw good flounder catches ranging from 30-50 a boat plus a few fluke. A private boat pulled into the dock with 35 fluke in the 2-4 lb. range fishing Massapequa Cove area on Friday. Good flounder catches being made at Squaw Island, buoys 12 and 14 and around the bridges with incoming water best.

From **Wanser's Bait and Tackle** we hear further that fluke have moved into the bays now with Fire Island Inlet particularly hot. Good blackfishing at the bridges on fiddlers and green crabs and some blowfish scattered around most anywhere on any soft bait. Plenty of flounder action at Four Corners, Massapequa Cove, Zachs Bay and the drawbridge area. Lon weighed in a 13.2 and a 14 lb. weak taken from Ocean Beach on strawberry jelly worms. A lot of small blues have been taken in Fire Island Inlet in the 3-4 lb. range. Some bass in the back at Tobay and Gilgo in the State Channel to 12 lbs. on plugs from boats.

We learn from Sal at **Custom Tackle** that Mike on his boat Michelle G had 70 flounder on blood worms and clam chum working an outgoing tide at Four Corners Sunday with mixed fish to 2 lbs. Aboard the 3 SeaSons Saturday's catch for Joe Ryan and party totalled 26 fluke from 2-4½ lbs. working Jones Inlet with sand eels and squid. One to three pound blues are being caught just west of Jones Inlet on tins.

Scott at **Merrick Tackle, Bellmore** has had customers bringing in a lot of fluke caught in Reynolds Channel on squid strips and also on bucktails tipped with squid. About 30 percent of the catch are throwbacks. Customers Ann, Steve and Chris Weiss of Massapequa totalled 56 big flounder caught Sunday at Massapequa Cove on outgoing tide on bloodworms and chum. Good blackfishing at all of the bridges on fiddlers and greenies and clams in a pinch.

Jimmy at **Nick's Fishing Station** in **Merrick** tells of good catches of mixed flounder. Glen Blakely hoisted a 2.8 flattie from Rowboat Alley this week. Rowboat Alley and Broad Creek have

been the hottest local spots for flounder most recently. Fluke have been taken at Merrick Point, Carmen's Cut and Swift Creek in the back on spearing and squid while blackfish up to 5 lbs. have been obliging at the bridges on clam bait.

As for the **Freeport Fleet**, aboard the **Capt. Lou III** they started on Monday with flounder and ended the day with good fluking. Same thing Tuesday with high hook for the day 18 keeper fluke. The big switch was made on Wednesday to all day fluking with high hook awards going for 26 keepers. Thursday saw super fluking with over 300 keepers by the end of the day. Anthony Baglivi was high hook with 29 keepers. Friday's high hook was Bob Sanks with 25 keeper fluke. Saturday was another hot day with roughly 280 keepers. Sunday was very good again. Largest fluke of the week was a 4½ pounder. Both tides are producing with sand eels best followed by spearing. The **CL IV** has been having good flounder and fluke catches also and is now fishing strictly flounder.

Aboard the **Starstream II**, it's goodby mackerel, hello sea bass, blacks and ling. The skipper said that decent weather results in very decent catches all during this past week and weekend with fares averaging 12-15 sea bass and 10-12 ling a man, with a couple of blackfish mixed in also. This is all being done on local wrecks. A 5 lb. bluefish took Sunday's pool.

Also switching from macks to sea bass, blacks and ling is the **Capt. Al**. These bottom feeders have been taken in decent numbers on every drop and the skipper says the sea bass are big and the ling are there in quantities with double headers not unusual. Al has also seen lots of blues swirling.

The **Miss Freeport II** has now switched completely over to fluke with a schedule of 8AM daily and also 3:30PM sailings Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays.

Staying with the flounder for awhile yet will be the **Capt. Andy** fleet which has been enjoying good flounder catches mainly in Swift Creek and at the end of Long Creek on both tides. Fish have been averaging a pound with pools going to 2 pounds with worm and clam bait working best.

The **Blue Fin** fleet has had excellent flounder and fluke catches with double headers on the flounder not unusual and up to 2½ lbs. at the Meadowbrook Bridge on worm and clam. Catches are being made in local creeks and also at the CG station and at the bridges on slack water. Sea bass, blacks and lots and lots of blowfish are also being hoisted. A lot of these blowfish are BIG, too. On Wednesday after the morning flounder action, a fluke drift was made and 50 keepers resulted. A second drift brought up 20 more keepers up to 4 lbs., all on flounder belly-spearing combos. High hook and pool winner with 14 fish was Bob Allen, NYCPD. Sunday's charter fished local wrecks

George Devlin with pickerel of 3¼ and 2½ lbs. taken in the Peconic River. Fish were weighed at Fisherman's Deli in Riverhead.

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Aboard the charter boat **Lady J III** we learn of substantial flounder catches with fish of good size. Sunday's high hook was 29 flounder for N. Y. Color Center, Syosset. The blackfish weighing 4 lbs. took the pool. Flounder were caught to 2¼ lbs. Best areas have been Swift Creek, Short Beach CG and the area between the Meadowbrook and Wantagh Bridges. Saturday's trip for Old Forge Tavern of Bayside also had a good pick on the flounder with worm working best now.

The **Freeport Boatmens Association** reports that all boats in the Association including the **Super Spray II** enjoyed good fluking right through the weekend in Reynolds Channel and more local areas with fish running 2 to 5 lbs. with, of course, some midgets. On Sunday, the **North Star** had a 4½ lb. pool fluke. Flounder continue to run in good numbers and good sizes.

From the foot of Hudson Canal, Ronnie at **Hudson Point Fishing Station** tells of Al Schmidt, Frank Newman and Little Frankie who fished STate Channel on worm, mussel and clam chum and coxed forth 74 big flounder Saturday on an ebbing tide. Tony Piazza on his boat Helen W, fishing by himself had a load of small blues on umbrellas and small bunkers Sunday. The blues were in the 2-3 lb. range. Fred Bosh and Vic Pastor fished from Meadowbrook to Wantagh Bridges Sunday taking 23 nice keeper fluke on an ebb tide using spearing and killies. Heinz Butzke, son Herb, along with Charlie Vaicels of Glendale loaded up with 60 flounder taken in Swift Creek by the houses on the beginning of the flood using worms, mussel and mussel chum. Don't forget, says Ronnie, the Hudson Anglers Shark Tournament being held June 18th. Call Hudson Point Fishing Station (see ad for number) if interested.

Fishing the charter boat **Mickey II** Saturday Rich Kovats, of Nassau County Boy Scouts in the morning fog had very good flounder catches with fish mainly of good size, though no great numbers. Jones Inlet, Meadowbrook Bridge and the CG station produced good fluking later in the day to the tune of 75 keeper fluke in 1½ hours on the last half of outgoing on squid and spearing. Skipper Tony Presto is really happy with the flying start that the fluke season is off to.

Aboard Dennis Kropp's charter boat **Corsair**, we hear of Saturday's flounder trip working Swift Creek and the Meadowbrook area for Al Goffe and group from Columbia University with high hook honors going to Mario Lopez and pool honors to Valerie Connors. A steady pick was had and many doubles came up along with a few fluke. Worm and clam did the trick and a few blacks also were swung aboard.

On the charter boat **Nan Sea** Saturday we learned that 25 out of 50

fluke were keepers on sand eels and squid fishing the Reynolds Channel Long Creek area, while Sunday's catch was a mixed bag of sea bass, small blues and fluke in Jones Inlet.

We hear from charter boat **Capt. Gary** that Friday's trip for Rich Mann and buddies from the State Liquor Authority had good floundering in Swift Creek and off the CG station. Kurt took the pool with a fish in the 2 lb. class. Saturday's charter for Joe Hayes and group from Chase Manhattan Bank had a combined catch of flounder and fluke in the afternoon working Jones Inlet and Reynolds. Pool fish was a 3½ lb. fluke. Sunday's trip for Ron Carman and group from Fish and Brew had a good fluking day. Leon Brabham took the pool with a 3 lb. fluke and Ben Taylon was high hook with 18 fluke.

We hear from **Lou's Fishing Station** at the foot of **Woodcleft Canal** that very good flounder catches are still being made off the CG station and in Jones Inlet with bigger flatties at the Meadowbrook. Sea bass and blackfish are also good items at the bridge on clam. Cocktail blues have been at the west bar several days late this week and are being taken on umbrellas and tins. Accidental blues were also taken on flounder and fluke rigs on the weekend. Several schoolie bass were taken by netters during the week, so we know they are around.

The word from **Anthony's Fishing Station** is that rental boats during the week brought back good flounder catches from the Short Beach area. Steve LaCherney and parents had roughly 75 nice flounder when they returned to the dock. Bob Anderson fished the same area and had 7 fluke Saturday on spearing. Mixed bags of blowfish, flounder and blackfish were taken aboard the Miss G working the Meadowbrook area.

Fran at **Thompson's Deli and Fishing Supply** in **Baldwin Harbor** called to tell of the good fishing Sunday for flounder and blues. Bill Fix on his boat Afternoon Delight boated 51 blues to 5½ lbs. off the Tower in 30-50 feet of water on umbrellas on incoming water. John Kanocck, George Triptree and Paul Kurz totalled 150 flounder, 80 of which went from 1-3 lbs. on blood worm and red clam in Haunts Creek and Middle Bay. So there! Capt. Ed Meyers and your Reynolds Channel on the Dixie Cup.

From **Arthur Street Fishing Station** we hear of the consistent catches of 14 to 16 inch fluke being brought back from the Reynolds Channel and inlet areas on squid, spearing and sand eels. Flounder still being caught in Middle Bay and blackfish being taken from the bridges along with some small porgies.

Down in **Pt. Lookout** we learn from **Ed's Fishing Station** that the fluking has gotten good with a fair keeper ratio for boats working Reynolds, the flats and Swift Creek. Flounder continue excellent. Steve and Dan McGown and James Ramruity of

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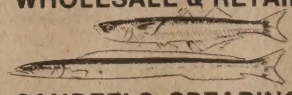
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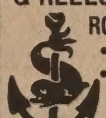
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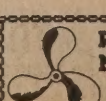
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Uniondale totalled 32 flounder including many 2 and 3 lbers. and 30 blowfish at Swift and near the Meadowbrook Bridge. Good blackfishing on fiddlers at the bridges and many blowfish around.

Aboard the charter boat **Marie III** Saturday's trip for the Kearney family had excellent fluking. Pool fish was caught by Ray Ryder, a 4½ lber. Susan Fiorillo took second place with a 3 lb. 14 oz. fluke. High hook was Steve Kearney with 19 keepers. Seven-year-old Brian Kearney had 9 keeper fluke. Action was in Reynolds, the golf course, off the CG, Meadowbrook and in Jones Inlet. Action was super on outgoing tide in the early morning. Sunday's trip was good with best catches in Reynold Channels and off the CG station, at the bridge and in the inlet on both tides. Catches averaged 5-10 keeper fluke a man with 12 being the high hook of the day. Many 2 and 3 lb. fluke were caught on the weekend and the keeper ratio has been 50 to 60 percent, on spearing and squid.

Aboard the two trip a day **Miss Point Lookout** we have more fluke news with catches generally averaging 5 to 10 keepers a man. Monday and Tuesday it was flounder and fluke but Wednesday things were so good it was just fluke all day long. On Wednesday afternoon's trip Susan Reese of East Meadow took the pool with a 4½ lb. blackfish. Fluking Thursday through Sunday was very good. Marilyn and Frank had 24 fluke, Sid Carman had 9 keepers and Dr. Joe of Long Beach also had 9 keeper fluke. Thursday's AM trip saw John Lusch of the Bronx with a 3 lb. 4 oz. fluke. On the PM trip, George Walters of Baldwin took the pool. On Friday's PM trip a regular, Tony took the pool with a 3 lb. fluke. On Saturday's AM trip, Pete Frankovich of Hastings-on-Hudson bagged a 4¾ lb. fluke. High hooks Friday and Saturday were 15 keeper fluke. Thursday's PM trip saw 14 fares with over 200 fluke as a total catch. The boat's been working Reynolds and Jones Inlet on fish belly, sand eels and spearing on both tides.

Over in **Island Park**, the **Commodore** has been having good fluke catches working Jones Inlet, Meadowbrook area and Reynolds. The initial drifts in the AM are the wildest said the skipper. Some fares getting up to 12 keepers. The keeper ratio is roughly 75 percent with sand eels, fluke belly, spearing and squid all working, with fluke belly best.

Beckmann's Tackle in **Lynbrook** tells of Bob Perrine, of RVC who advised that at 2PM on Sunday, Jones Inlet erupted with bluefish and he managed to catch 7 of them up to 5 lbs. They seemed to be feeding on small mackerel and were caught on small Kastmasters. Sunday saw George Anderatos, of Flushing on his own boat wind up 80 giant porgies to 3 lbs. in Peconic Bay. George also had some decent blackfish. Good numbers of fluke in the inlet and Reynolds.

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Laura McGuire with part of a catch of 40 blackfish to 5 lbs. taken on green crabs at the Meadowbrook Bridge. Photo courtesy of Skippy's Bait & Tackle in East Rockaway.

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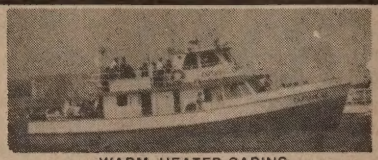

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Lots of flounder and lots of blackfish around.

We hear from **Long Beach Sports Marina** of blacks, blows, fluke and flounder during the week caught by the station's rental customers and private boats. The AB bridge and gong buoy off the Silver Point jetty have been good spots for blackfish on fiddlers, greens and clam. Frank and Don Durando had a tub of them to 5 lbs. Flounder remain productive with the best being buoy 5 in Reynolds Channel and buoy 10 in Debs. Ralph and Ben Travelglena hoisted 50 good flounder to 2½ lbs. on sand worms in these areas. Flounder also at Duck Point and buoy 3 with white bait best but also on white bucktails cast onto the flats and bounced back. Blowfish have been a good by-catch.

The **Atlantic Beach** charter boat **Kim** says the beginning of catches of weaks and bass are now starting in the nets off Atlantic and Rockway Beaches. Schools of 2-4 lb. blues at the west end of Jones and off the Rockaways. These are being taken on tins and umbrellas.

Reynolds Reef Fishing Station in **Atlantic Beach** tells of plenty of good sized flounder off the Magnolia Blvd. Pier, the Long Beach firehouse and buoy 5 in Reynolds Channel. Worms seem to be working best on both tides. Blackfish at both ends of the AB bridge, and off the Silver Point jetty on fiddlers, greens and sand worms, fish to 5 lbs. Fluke being taken in Debs from buoys 6 to 10 drifting with spearing, sand eels and squid. Winner of the Atlantic Beach Rod and Gun Weakfish Tournament were first place Rober Corbelli, 11.11 weak. Second place Ton Siniscalchi, 11.2 weak and 3rd place Chris Vitucci, 4.4 weak. All caught on Tony's boat Emme. All fish were caught on sand worms at Ocean Beach's buoy 12. This was the only boat that had weakfish in the tournament. Small blues around Jones Inlet.

NEW YORK BIGHT

The open boat **Capt. Mike** out of **Howard Beach** called to report good to excellent flounder fishing all week to the tune of 20-30 fish a man plus a scattering of blackfish. Blacks have been running 4-5 lbs. On Thursday, Flushing angler Dan Borisuck, had 60 flatties. Friday saw two 15-year-old anglers Ciro Tucci and Tom Vario with 50 flounder and a few blackfish between them, Tom taking the pool with a 2½ lb. flounder. Worms have been best on any moving water.

We learned from **Cross Bay Bait and Tackle** that on Sunday, Roger Kahles fishing the south channel bridge on outgoing water had 3 flounder to 1½ lbs. and 10 blackfish, 1-4½ lbs. all on clam. Blackfishing has been very good on fiddlers and clam bait from both bridges.

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Whitfield Todd displays a hefty 2¾ lb. flattie that he decked aboard the City Island charter and open boat, "Apache."

Bay area, we hear from the charter boat **Daybreaker** that a lot of bluefish in the 1-3 lb. range have just moved into the area and are being taken jigging and trolling. Captain Mike says it seems like a large body of fish as he found them anywhere from the Tin Can to Norton's Point. They seem to have suddenly come out of nowhere with a big bang.

The area's blackfish specialist Capt. Tom of the **Pilot II** says that during the last few days he's been having very good blackfishing, fish 1-5 lbs. and on other days he's been getting loads of sea bass from 3/4 to 1½ lbs. The skipper will seize the best opportunity of the day for his fares. Catches are mainly off the Jersey coast.

Aboard Capt. Kevin's **Dorothy B VII** the excellent flounder fishing continues in the Rockaway area with fish up to 2½ lbs. Sunday lots of blackfish were mixed in on a mussel bed. Also some 3-4 lb. pollock were taken as were some nice size flounder. Kevin says he will soon be fluking and will also be night jigging as well for blues and weaks. A big school of small blues hit the Breezy Point jetty Sunday and various boats were taking them on jigs.

Flounder are petering out fast said Capt. Walt of the **Flamingo III** but the ling and blackfish have moved in on the offshore wrecks in strong quantities so that the boat is now sailing for ling, blacks and bass 6:30AM daily. Walt said a lot of 1-3 lb. blues have moved into the area and he will be watching the bluefish picture closely. It's advised that you call the captain before coming down as he may possibly be switching to blues at the last minunite.

Talking with Charlie over at **Mike's Tackle** across from the fleet, we hear more about the excellent bluefish activity that has busted wide open from the Breezy Point jetty to the VZ bridge. These are 2-4 lb. fish being taken on diamond jigs and from the shore on plugs. Good flounder catches off Cedars, the Jersey coast, the Rockaways and off the Sheepshead bay piers themselves. Some mackerel boats are going up to Long Island Sound for good catches and some of the Sheepshead fleet is running for fluke at Debs. Very good blackfishing off the Jersey rocks and local wrecks.

Over in **Staten Island, Santo's Sport Shop** has good flounder catches to report mainly from piers 17 and 18, Penny and South Beaches on worms. A few schoolie bass at Great Kills Park on sand worms on incoming and at Penny Beach on sand worms on the ebb. Small bass at Cliff Street on small artificials. Weakfish averaging 3 lbs. being taken in the 15' to 20' holes inside Great Kills Harbor on worms...just a pick. One to three pound cocktail blues from Princess Bay to Great Kills Park on tins and small umbrellas. Blacks a very good item off Old Home dock and Great Kills and Princess Bay bug lights on fiddlers and greens.

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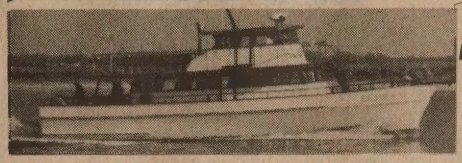

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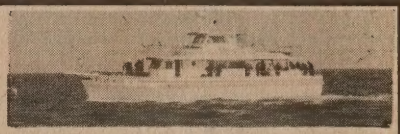

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North Shore REPORT
with Marty Garrell

The best blackfishing action in many years is the rule in just about every area, and flounder are still holding their own. Mackerel schools are spotty, but party boat action is adequate on most days. Porgies are rapidly becoming the best bet in the Peconics while Gardiners flounder fishing is also quite good. Despite a foggy Saturday, the weekend results turned out rather well for small boaters in most locations.

WESTERN SOUND

John's Gun in **New Rochelle** described fine blackfishing action off the Larchmont Breakwater in 12-15' of water. Fiddler crabs were preferred, and the best fish on the scales went 7½ pounds.

Jack's Bait on **City Island** reported blackfish on both tides on fiddlers off the Old CBS Tower, Fort Slocum, Hart's Island and Steppingstone Light with the biggest tautog of the week weighing 8½ pounds. Flounder and small bass are also available.

Dave Watt at the **Glen Cove Sport Shop** mentioned a number of blackfish weigh-ins, with 3 over 10 pounds and 6 between 8 and 9 pounds last week. The hottest fishing was still off Pryble's Pier on steamers and green crabs with smaller numbers of fish off Matinecock Point. The catch of the

Joe Pietras shows the 19 inch rainbow trout he caught on a recent trip to Nissequogue River State Park. Subscriber photo.

week however was a 3 pound, 8 ounce porgy taken off Stehli's Beach in Bayville by a flounder fisherman!

Dom Cerbone of the **Apache** from **City Island** was working some 20' of water off Center Island on a drift for blackfish and flounder. Some 40 tautog per day to 8 pounds are scattered among the flatties, and flounder catches run 15-25 per fare.

Pete Anderson of the **North Star** picked away at the Smithtown Bay mackerel schools over the weekend with reasonable results. Small boats make life difficult, but there were acres of macs on top on Saturday. Joe Ferraro of the **Ebb Tide III** will be running for another two weeks on macs, but the North Star expects to switch to bottom fishing on Thursday.

Frank Ackley's **Tarpon**, from **Glen Cove** also got in on the mackerel action for two weekend charters, Art Spiro on Saturday and Rocky Renato on Sunday. Jigging with trees is sporadic because chum won't hold the fish to the boat.

NORTH SHORE MID-ISLAND

Bob Cedar at **Huntington Prop** saw lots of flounder and blackfish including brother Jerry's 7¾ pound bulldog. Many of the blackfish are off Diamond Point in shallow water. Flounder are also available off Marshall Field and Asharoken. Ronnie Ferroro from **Ronnie's** also liked the blackfish action off Buoy 11B and off Marshall Field on crabs. There were a few bass around the area as well.

L.I.F. Subscriber Jerry Berkamn and friends Jose and Pdro Calvet, worked between the light and buoy 13 over the weekdnd and finished with 51blacks from 3-7 pounds. Tom Bowman at **Bowman's** in **Northport** felt that it was not hard to pick up a dozen or more macs off the Northport area, but that the year was not a terrific one for macs. Blackfishing was excellent, and an 8 pound tautog was weighed at the store last week.

The **Caraftis Fishing Station** in **Port Jeff** liked the blackfish action off all rocky points including Mount Misery and Crane's. Nick Macchio and Dan Morales pulled 60 tautog to 9 pounds off the West Jetty. The west side of the Inlet still held flounder and there were some macs off Buoy 11 as well as Cedar Beach. Accidental fluke and porgies were mentioned by Tim Caraftis as well.

Dick Brown at **Dick's** in **Mount Sinai** mentioned a few weaks in the 4-5 pound class taken on Ceadar Beach, Miller Place on worms, and said that most of the blackfish locally were in the 4-5 pound class too. Brown was amazed by several porgies which weighed in at the store last week, and topped the scales at nearly 4 pounds. These monsters were hauled near Sound Beach, Miller

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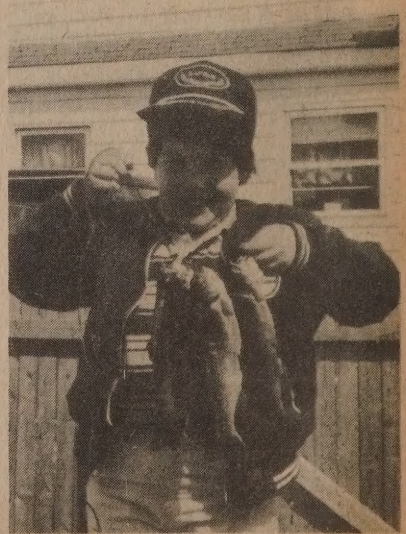
Place.

Packy Collins of the **Ever Ready** entertained some Cub Scouts on Sunday with blackfish to 5 pounds and lots of flounder, but his public runs have been on macs. He called to say that casting was still the best bet and jigs were best kept away from the boat. The problem is beating the small boats to the pods of fish. The Ever Ready will be on a daily schedule beginning Thursday with possible shots at blackfish as well as mackerel.

NORTH FORK

Phil Loria at **Captain Marty's** in **New Suffolk** tells us that there are now lots of porgies in the Peconics; scup are humpbacks all the way from 1½ to 3½ pounds and there are plenty of blackfish to well over 6 pounds mixed in. Except for a very few sharpies, weakfish "take a place at the bottom of the list", with most anglers going fishless or registering only a fish or two per day. The porgies are best at Rose's on incoming, but a catch that included one 3½ pound giant came from Buoy 30.

Top daytime weakfish catches for those who pick the right spot and patiently drift sandworms in a chum slick run anywhere from a few fish to 10, but Ed Kopack at **Warren's** reported that expert Bill Velys and friends John and Bill Hondry managed 31 fish around 8 pounds, on a 3AM tide over the weekend. Another all night crew from Jersey, working Southold Bay and Noyac Bay reported a catch of 29 tiderunners to the **Port of Egypt**, but Jim Dunkrk told us that the best daytime livery haul was 5



Chris Mollitor, 8, shows the four trout he landed on ultra-light spinning tackle and 4 lb. test at Massapequa Reservoir on April 2. Subscriber photo.

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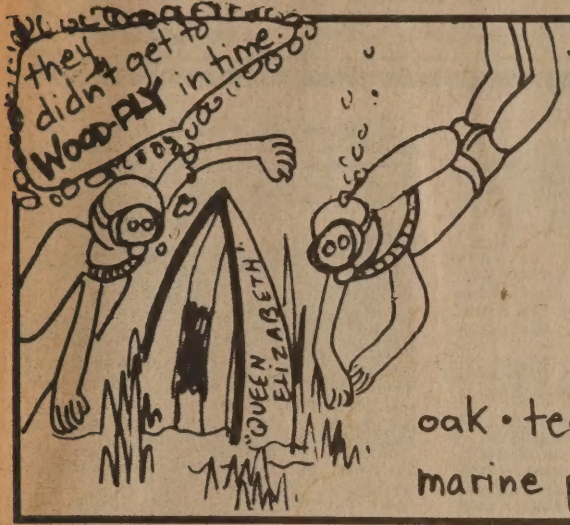

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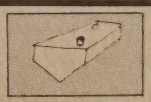

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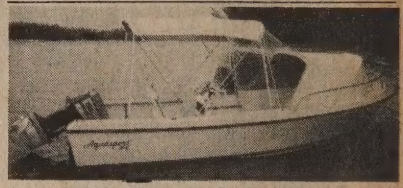

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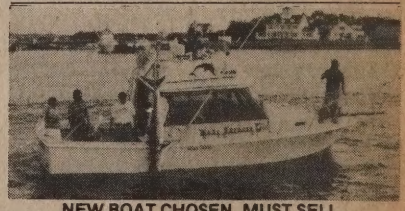

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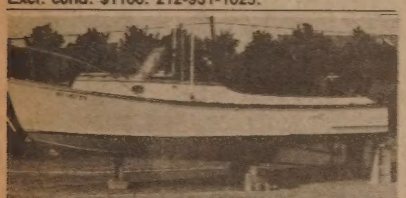

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UNIFLITE Sportfisherman, '81 engines, tower, auto-pilot, A/C, Loran ''Canyon Runner.'' Documented. Buy or lease. Asking $41,900. Eves: 201-842-1698. Days: 212-382-8474.

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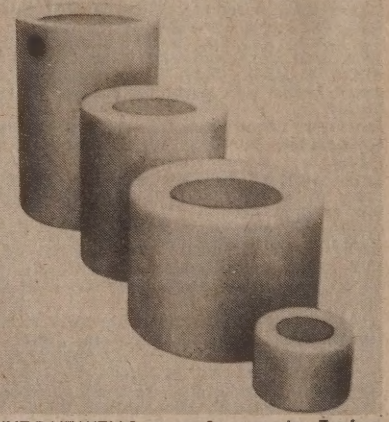

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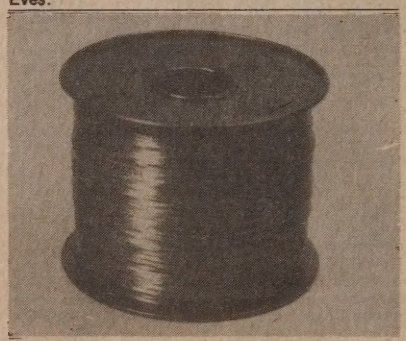

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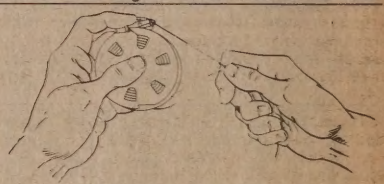

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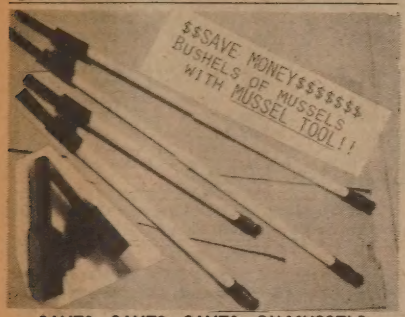

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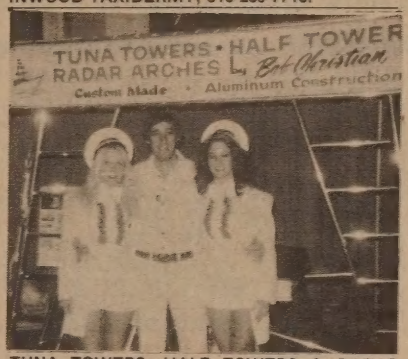

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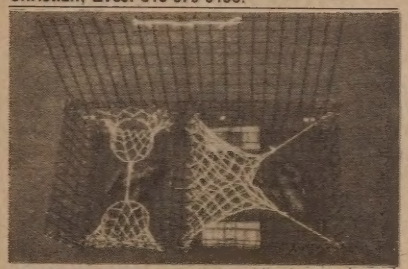

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Surf REPORT
with Fred Golofaro

With very little happening around the Island's beaches this spring, I've been hard pressed rounding up enough info to create some semblance of a surf report. And so explains this year's late start to my favorite ramblings. While you may find this first attempt a bit sparse, at least we've got the ball rolling. Again, anyone willing to share the results of their labors, can reach me on Monday mornings between 7:30 and 11AM at (516) 725-4200.

Well, it was again left to inveterate surfman Jason Colby to put the season's first cow bass on the board, though seven days late by the angler's own admission. Logging in long hours each night since last Sunday PM, fortitude finally paid off for the Lolng Beach resident who annually claims a big fish or two on the 15th or 16th of May. His 31 lb. striper, which struck a homemade plug late Sunday PM, was checked by Bobby Sprenger at **Captree Bait Station** early Monday AM. It was taken "on the bay side somewhere between Captree and Jones Beach."

There was little in the way of encouraging news from the west where I spoke to Lenny Killoran of **Santo's Sport Shop** in Staten Island. Lenny spoke of a few school bass from the Great Kills Park Shore during the flood on sands and at Penny Beach on the ebb. Lots of small blues are in the area but most of this action has been reserved for boatmen. All in all, Lenny called it the slowest start in years.

Surf fishing in the Fire Island area centered around small blues which were welcomed by most casters who have been disappointed by the lack of weakfish action thus far. Richie Gutman checked in a catch of 45 blues in the 2-3 lb. range at **Augie's Bait and Tackle** in Babylon on Friday night. Taken during the evening hours at the Sore Thumb, Richie told Mickey Chiarenza of the shop that the fish "hit everything." On Sunday, Hank Abbensetg fished the Thumb and took 12 blues to 5 lbs. on Ava 007 jigs. He checked his catch at **Lindenhurst Bait and Tackle.** A reliable source also reported action wtih blues in the 3-4 lb. range on the inlet side of Robert Moses Park Friday evening. A couple of weaks taken from the area this past week included Great South Bay Anglers Club member George Butler's 11 lb. tiderunner and Tom Fallon's 9 lber.

Up on the North Shore, rumblings of a few 4-5 lb. weaks taken at scattered locations between Mt. Sinai and Center Island Reef in Bayville. Richie Herpfer made things a little more convincing with his 7½ lb. weak taken at Miller Place Saturday evening and checked in at **J&J Tackle** in Patchogue. The weak fell for a small Spin Atom.

Ronnie Ferraro, of **Ronnie's Tackle Shop** in Huntington Station, spoke of a trickle of school bass action along the Cold Spring Harbor Causeway on Rebels and droppers, but not much else. He did hear of 2 small weaks—one coming from the Lilco outflow and another from Cold Spring Harbor.

Bruce Newmark, who reps for G96 Products, told of seeing one caster in West Harbor, Bayville, with four school bass taken on small tins Saturday AM. By the time Bruce arrived on the scene, the fishing was finished.

weakfish to 10 pounds, 5 ounces. Mackerel were showing across from Conklins, and flounder were still available in Pipes Cove, Dring Harbor, and in East Marion.

The best Sound blackfishing on the East End appeared to be at the Northville Pipe, according to Charlie Caraftis at the **Mattituck Inlet Fishing Station**, but the Bungalows were yielding numbers of smaller tautog, too. Green crabs and skimmers were producing, and the biggest tautog of the week weighed 10 pounds. Further east, blackfish were showing at the Lighthouse and off the Orient Station of the Port of Egypt, while flounder still remained top attraction around Petty's Bight. Incidentally, ARt White at the **A.P. White Bait Shop** in **Greenport** recommends worms for the blackfish off the 67 Steps and Soundview on the Sound.

White was also kind enough to give us the details of an excellent Saturday night trip aboard the **Brand X.** Skipper Richie Jensen hustled a boatload of several hundred giant humpback porgies plus the first 7 blues of the season, plus some 46 weaks for 30 fares.

Just how good the flounder action is out east was apparent from reports supplied by Larry Ciccato of the **Prime Time II**, Rod DeLisle of the **Prowler**, and John Rainis of the **Blue Albatross**. Off Green Hills in 30' of water on Sunday, DeLisle had some 2-2¾ pound flatties on 5 ounces of lead. Ciccotto picked some of the Prime Time's fish from the Ruins then went out to 40' off Green Hills for his best fihsing of the day on Sunday. Ciccotto was happy to find a few larger flatties mixed with the numbers of smaller fish in the 1-1¼ pound class off Petty's Bight. John Rainis on the Blue Albatross enjoyed good flatfishing over the weekend and was very happy with the porgies that showed up among "blotchy" weakfish action during his night charters.

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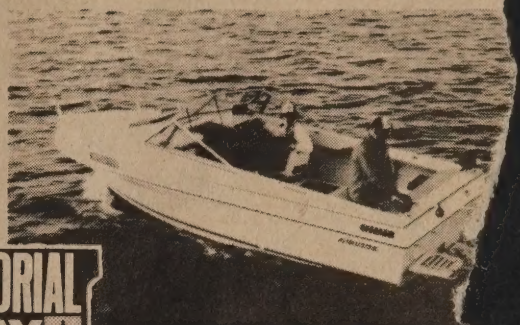

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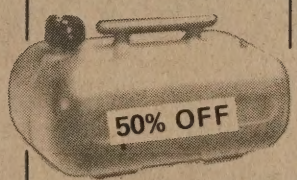

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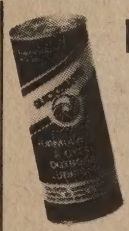

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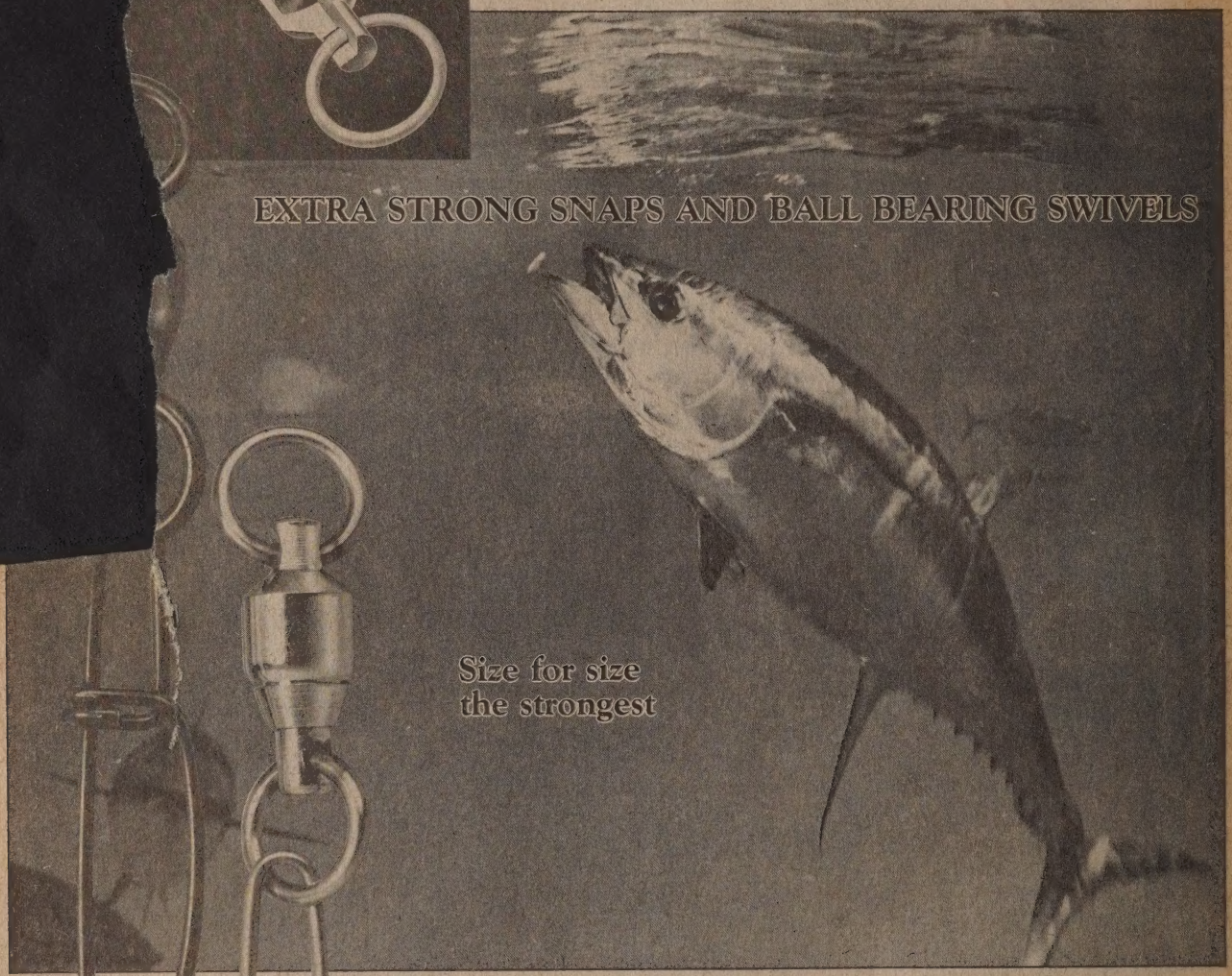

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